MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iraqi forces killed 980 Iranians on 11 May during an Iranian attack on Iraqi positions north of Khorramshahr, according to a military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio. Earlier, a military communique carried by the radio reported that the attack had been repulsed and that the Iranians had been forced to retreat. The communique also said the Iranians suffered "grave losses" on 12 May when Iraqi planes and helicopters raided Iranian positions west of the Karun River and north of Khorramshahr throughout the day. It noted that one Iranian plane was shot down west of the Karun River in a dogfight.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi military commander said Iraqi forces are tightening their control over Khorramshahr, INA reported.

According to an armed forces and Guard Corps communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian troops are continuing to beseige Iraqi forces on the Khorramshahr axis. The communique said Iranian forces destroyed an Iraqi outpost northwest of Shalamcheh and recaptured another outpost southwest of Jofeyr. It noted that over 4,000 sq km of Iranian territory had been liberated during the Jerusalem Operation (bayt al-moqaddas).

GCC Meeting -- The GCC foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on 15 May to discuss developments in the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported citing Kuwaiti newspapers.

Iraq

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran discussed the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war with President Saddam Husayn during a short visit to Iraq, Amman radio reported.

Iran

Revolution Guards dealt a "final blow" to the Peykar group in Shiraz, arresting more than 70 members in a crackdown against 10 hideouts, according to a Guards Corps statement broadcast by Tehran radio.

Lebanon

Fighting erupted in Tripoli when artillery and rocket exchanges took place between rival factions in several areas of the city, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. These exchanges were followed by sniper fire, the radio said. According to Beirut radio, two security committee members were wounded when they came under sniper fire in the Bab at-Tabbanah area of Tripoli.

Egypt

Official talks between the United States and Egypt to advance the autonomy negotiations and surmount the procedural obstacles that are impeding their resumption opened in Cairo, MENA reported. The Egyptian side is led by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the U.S. side is led by special envoy Richard Fairbanks. In the initial discussions the Egyptian side emphasized the need for Israel to adopt measures to change the political atmosphere and to cease taking measures against the Palestinians so as to motivate them to participate in the negotiations, Cairo radio noted in a later report. The radio said the Egyptian and U.S. sides discussed the procedural matters that are still in dispute between Egypt and Israel, particularly the venue for the tripartite talks. The U.S. and Egyptian sides also dealt with subjects concerning the formation of a Palestinian authority which is to supervise the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel

A book entitled "Two Minutes Over Baghdad" says Israel, South Africa and Taiwan are apparently developing a cruise missile that will be able to deliver a nuclear warhead from Israel to any point in the Arab world and to the southern part of the USSR, HA'ARETZ reported. The two Israeli authors of the book speculate that Israel and South Africa are also developing a neutron bomb.

Libya

Libya has assured Great Britain that it has supplied no arms to Argentina, the LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. The British had contacted Libya after reports that Argentina was seeking to buy more Exocet missiles.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS IRAN-IRAQ WAR

LD130828 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0721 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 13 May (KUNA) -- According to Kuwaiti papers today, GCC foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting here next Saturday to discuss recent developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and their repercussions on the region and the current Arab situation in general.

The papers, whose chief editors met with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah yesterday, report the leaders of the council member countries decided on the meeting after receiving letters on this subject from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, conveyed to them by cabinet adviser 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi.

The papers say that within the framework of joint coordination of stands "a call will also be made for an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers to discuss the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war, which has gone on for over 20 months, with a view to taking a unified and decisive Arab stand."

According to the papers, the amir of Kuwait telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last Monday and informed him of his intention to call a meeting of Arab foreign ministers. The papers report the Iraqi president has welcomed the idea. The papers also say the GCC meeting was to have taken place yesterday or today but has been postponed until Saturday so all the foreign ministers can be present, including Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-Alawi 'Abdallah, who is accompanying Sultan Qabus on his visits to Jordan and Egypt.

BAHRAIN

TEXT OF BAHRAINI-KUWAITI JOINT COMMUNIQUE

GF121533 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 82

["Text" of joint communique issued simultaneously in Manama and Kuwait following visit to Kuwait by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on 12 May 1982]

[Text] In consolidation of the fraternal ties between Bahrain and Kuwait, and in response to an invitation from his brother Shaykh al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, visited Kuwait 10-12 May 1982. He and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a ceremonious official and popular welcome that signified the depth of the historical ties and feelings of sincere amity springing from the common objectives, aspirations and expectations of the two countries and their fraternal peoples.

During this visit, and in a spirit of amity and understanding, official talks were held between the two sides that were chaired on the Bahraini side by his highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, and on the Kuwaiti side by his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the current situation in the region, and the current Arab and international situation.

In reviewing bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their full satisfaction over the steady expansion of constructive and fraternal cooperation between the two countries in various fields. Bahrain lauded Kuwait's aid to Bahrain in various development projects. The two sides emphasized the need to continue deepening and expanding this cooperation so as to being about progress and development for the two countries and their common interests and to realize the goals of their fraternal peoples.

The two sides expressed pride in the valuable accomplishments that have been achieved so far within the GCC and its affiliated establishments. They lauded the active role the GCC is playing as a pioneering step to consolidate the intrinsic strength of the countries of the region, to face various challenges, and to preserve the region's stability and security and its people's prosperity away from intervention and international rivalries.

The two sides discussed the current Arab situation, particularly various developments of the Palestinian issue. They reiterated their countries' total support and assistance for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO. They hoped Arab resolutions to enhance the Palestinian people's resistance, to confront the Zionist enemy's expansionist aggressive designs and to protect the Islamic holy places will be practically implemented.

The two sides strongly denounced the stand of countries which still support the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab nation in defiance of the international community's will as represented in the UN General Assembly's resolutions calling for the enemy's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, first of all their right to establish their independent state on their own land.

The two sides expressed full support for the efforts being made to normalize the situation and to consolidate national unity, peace and security in fraternal Lebanon under its legitimate government. They emphasized the need to speed up the plans for a unified and comprehensive Arab strategy that guarantees the protection of southern Lebanon and resistance to the Zionist enemy's threats against it in accordance with the resolutions approved at the 12th Arab summit in Fes.

In reviewing Arab relations, the two sides emphasized the need to consolidate and unify efforts to freeze peripheral differences and to remove all obstacles obstructing joint Arab action to achieve an active solidarity that would confront fateful threats to the Arab nation. In this regard they expressed hope the meetings of the Arab summit will resume as soon as possible and in a constructive fraternal spirit that would result in unified, constructive Arab resolutions and stands able to deal with the sensitive fateful situation facing the Arab nation.

The two sides discussed the current international situation. Their views on issues of common interest were identical.

His highness the amir of Bahrain and the delegation accompanying him expressed their deep thanks and appreciation for the very gracious hospitality they received during their visit. The amir of Bahrain extended an invitation to his brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to visit Bahrain. His highness accepted the visit with thanks, and its date will be fixed later.

Amir Returns From Kuwait

GF120837 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0831 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Manama, 12 May (WAKH) -- Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah returned to Manama this morning following a 3-day visit to Kuwait.

Upon his return, the amir was received by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrian Defense Forces; and senior officials.

OMAN

GCC MILITARY, SECURITY DELEGATIONS ARRIVE

Military Delegation

GF110740 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Muscat, 10 May (WAKH) -- A GCC military delegation arrived in Muscat this evening for a visit to the Sultanate of Oman that will last several days. The visit of the delegation, which is led by Staff Gen Yusuf al-Madani, comes within the framework of exchange visits among various GCC officials. The delegation was received upon arrival by Staff Gen Muhammad Sa'id, commander of the northern Oman brigade.

Security Delegation

GF101508 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] A GCC security experts delegation arrived in the country today for an official 4-day visit to Oman. The delegation will acquaint itself with security installations and accomplishments achieved by Omani police during the golden era of the leadership of Sultan Qabus. The delegation was received by [name indistinct], assistant commissioner for administrative affairs and units; Lt Col 'Abdallah 'Ali an-Nadri, commander of the police academy; Maj 'Ali Salim (al-Qas), public relations officer; and other Omani police officers.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER SUPPORTS PEACE PLAN

LD130842 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0650 GMT 13 May 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 May (SPA) -- Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reiterated his country's absolute support for the Arab peace plan put forward by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the only practical formula capable of resolving the problem of the Palestinian people on the Arab, Islamic and international levels.

In a statement to the Saudi paper UKAZ published today, Yaqub Khan called on all countries to denounce the repeated all-out aggression being committed against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and against the Lebanese people in southern Lebanon, actions which reflect Israel's terrorist nature and lack of respect for the rights of the others.

He said he brought a message to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, dealing with bilateral cooperation and relations. He stated the Islamic Good Offices Committee will be meeting shortly for discussions and consultations about the achievements made so far during its recent visits to Baghdad and Tehran.

He said the coordination committee of the Jerusalem Committee, of which his country is a member, has drawn up a number of proposals for joint action to face the Israeli challenges. He added the committee has also drawn up a number of recommendations for increasing efforts to end the war between Iraq and Iran, to bolster the Palestinian people and to provide political and material support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said the committee will embark on a long tour of a number of Western countries to acquaint world public opinion there with the current Arab and Islamic issues.

Comments on Visit

BK130454 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has lauded the Saudi-Pak cooperation in various fields and described it as a source of pride and strength to Pakistan. In a statement on departure from Saudi Arabia today he said the primary objective of his discussions with the Saudi leaders was to coordinate their views and policies in the face of many threats confronting the Islamic world and the potential explosive situation in the area arising mainly from the callous and aggressive Israeli policies as well as the continued Iraq-Iran conflict which cause concern to the entire Islamic ummah [community].

He said it was agreed during the talks that it is important for the two countries to remain in close touch and not only maintain but even raise the level of mutally beneficial bilateral cooperation. He said in this way the two countries will be able to help each other attain the common objective of directing their energies for the welfare of their people without external interference. The Pakistan foreign minister said during his audience with King Khalid he conveyed the warm greetings and good wishes of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and also availed the opporunity to brief the Saudi monarch on Pakistan's views regarding various issues of mutual interest.

PRESS DEFENDS STAND ON EGYPT, ARAB CAUSES

LD111352 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 11 May (SPA) -- The Saudi newspapers today praised the kingdom's "constructive role" in support of the Arab and Palestinian causes, in the course of commenting on Saudi Arabia's denial that it had reopened its embassy in Cairo.

AL-JAZIRAH, published here, stressed that the kingdom unquestionably welcomed Egypt's affiliation to the Arab world and wished the fraternal Egyptian people all progress and prosperity, but it would not take any "unilateral decisions on questions of interest to the whole Arab world." The paper said the kingdom had always initiated "firm diplomatic moves to safeguard the Palestinian interests and project realities relating to the Israeli oppressive practices in the occupied Arab lands."

"Saudi leaders have proved harbingers of peace, cooperation and joint action, whenever differences shroud the Arab atmosphere," the paper added. It asserted that the kingdom would "never bargain or compromise on an inch of the Arab land" and hailed the kingdom's "material and moral support for the Palestinian cause."

AR-RIYAD said "the restoration of relations between the kingdom and Egypt has not been suggested or made by the Saudi Government. Some people are trying to distort the kingdom's image and arouse suspicions about Saudi Arabia's unwavering commitment to the Arab nation." The paper reaffirmed that the kingdom had always considered Egypt as an "inseparable part of the whole Arab nation and treated the return to Egypt to the Arab fold as a vital and urgent issue."

AL-YAWM, published in Ad-Dammah, strongly criticized "attempts by some people, who are trying to create suspicion about the kingdom's adherence to the Arab nation and its unwavering support for the Palestinian cause." The paper stressed that the kingdom's stands were "always constructive and reasonable, disregarding the paid reports and articles in certain newspapers which distort the responsible Saudi stance in support of the Arab and Palestinian issues."

UAE

OIL MINISTER LEAVES FOR CARACAS OPEC MEETING

GF121250 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, left for London today en route to Caracas. He will chair the second meeting of the OPEC ministerial followup committee which will be held there next Thursday, 18 May. The committee -- which includes Venezuela, Algeria, Indonesia and the UAE -- will discuss the oil market situation and developments the market has witnessed since its first meeting in Vienna on 21 April. Mr al-'Utaybah will also participate in the meetings of the OPEC ministerial committee that will begin in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 May. He will then make an official visit to France to hold talks with the French energy minister and a number of French officials on bilateral cooperation in the oil and energy field.

PDRY

CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

LD121934 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The YSP Central Committee held the first meeting of its sixth regular session this morning. The session was chaired by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Central Committee discussed current developments in the Yemeni and Arab arenas and the contacts which have been made between our country and party and the fraternal and friendly countries and parties.

The committee reviewed the outcome of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's visit to Ta'izz, in the northern part of the homeland. The Central Committee expressed its appreciation of his meeting with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland and stressed the need for greater efforts to strengthen and develop unity work -- efforts such as strengthening joint institutions, mobilizing all unifying energies and resources, and resisting all of the conspiracies hatched by the forces opposed to our Yemeni people that seek to obstruct our struggle for the reunification of the Yemeni homeland on a peaceful and democratic basis.

The YSP Central Committee also expressed its appreciation of the secretary general's visit to Cuba, Nicaragua, the UAE and Algeria. It also expressed strong appreciation of the developing relations between our country and the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front as well as with the countries of the Aden tripartite treaty. The Central Committee stressed the need to match the strengthening of the relations with something that will serve the causes of the Afro-Arab struggle and to resist the threat posed to the Afro-Arab progressive forces by the intensified aggressive conspiracies of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance.

The YSP Central Committee resumes its sixth session this evening. It will discuss a number of organizational and economic issues.

TALKS HELD WITH U.S. ON RESUMING AUTONOMY TALKS

NC121617 Cairo MENA in English 1520 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) -- Official talks opened here today between the United States and Egypt to help push forward the autonomy negotiations and surmount the procedural obstacles which impede the resumption of the negotiations soon to attain the declaration of principles on autonomy for the Palestinians.

The Egyptian side was led by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, while the American side was led by U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Richard Fairbanks. The Egyptian side comprised State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali; 'Abd al-Halim Hadwi, director of the Department of Organizations at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, chairman of the Egyptian side to the autonomy talks on the experts level; Ambassadors Fawzi al-Abrashi and Ra'uf Ghunaym and a number of Egyptian experts in the autonomy affairs.

The Fairbanks-'Ali talks lasted for two and half hours, following which Fairbanks said that they discussed steps related to the peace process, to which the U.S. is fully committed. He added that they reviewed the way of pushing forward the process to continue establishing a just peace in the area.

The Egyptian and American sides will resume their talks tomorrow at the technical level under First Foreign Under Secretary Ambassador ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid and Fairbanks, MENA learned. On the other hand, the Egyptian side will convene tonight under 'Abd al-Hamid to prepare for the talks.

Ghali Comments on Talks

NC121636 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said today's discussions with U.S. envoy Richard Fairbanks are considered a resumption of the autonomy talks at the bilateral level until the dispute on resuming the tripartite talks is resolved.

Dr Ghali said the discussions dealt with procedural aspects as well as with exploring new ideas for giving momentum to the talks to achieve a transitional system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the Egyptian negotiator called for the need to adopt measures aimed at building the trust of the Palestinian people and to create a suitable atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza for the Palestinian people to be motivated in the coming phase to join the tripartite talks for laying down the foundations for the transitional period.

Dr Ghali said the discussions also dealt with the situation in Lebanon and developments in the Middle East situation. He said a technical level meeting will be held tomorrow between the U.S. envoy and the Egyptian delegation to discuss the subjects connected with the formation and the powers of the Palestinian authority during the transitional period.

Mubarak Meets Fairbanks 12 May

NC130731 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM notes President Husni Mubarak elucidated to U.S. envoy Ambassador Richard Fairbanks, during the discussions the president held with Fairbanks yesterday, the importance of immediately halting the violence in the West Bank and Gaza, and the need for Israel to take confidence-building measures, so the Palestinian people will also march in the peace procession.

The paper notes that at the discussions the Egyptian side explained the need for these measures to be taken urgently, and for the United States in this phase to shoulder important responsibilities following the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. The president also elucidated the reasons for refusing to hold discussions in Jerusalem, on the grounds that the status of the Palestinians in east Jerusalem is still being negotiated.

QATARI PAPER CITED ON KING HUSAYN VISIT TO CAIRO

NC130704 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR highlights the affirmation of the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH that Jordan's King Husayn will be the first leader of an Arab state having severed relations with Egypt to visit Cairo soon. Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the paper says: Many Arab officials will soon proceed to Egypt.

PRESS PREDICTS DEVELOPMENTS ON ARAB FRONT SOON

NC122324 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) -- The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR affirm in Thursday's editorials that the talks Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman held in Egypt will have important results on the Arab level in the next few days. Pointing to the joint statement issued on Sultan Qabus' talks with President Mubarak, AL-AHRAM says there is a pan-Arab predominance in the wording of the statement. It says the common feeling of the gravity of the current Middle East situation will permit a considerable amount of joint moves by the Arabs to achieve rapprochement, enabling them to confront any events and challenges.

AL-AHRAM also says the joint statement suggests a strong faith in the need for the Arabs to solve their problems by themselves so they can devote their time to tackling their security and future in an effective way. The paper notes the Iraqi-Iranian war as an example of these problems. It describes this war as a painful thorn bleeding the Arab body and threatening upheavals, dissension and serious polarizations in the area. The paper says this war must be stopped by a quick initiative by both countries. The paper proposes the Arabs, backed by the Islamic countries, must undertake the mission of reconciling Iraq and Iran without waiting for alien interference, particularly from the big powers. AL-AHRAM says Gulf security is contingent upon the strength of the Gulf countries, the soundness of their regimes and their cooperation with each other. It says Egypt's Arab role is undoubtedly available and the room for Arab action is open to complete the peace march in a way ensuring the liberation of the remaining occupied Arab lands and enabling the Palestinian people to determine their future.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM asserts the common Arab ground manifest in the joint statement on the Mubarak-Qabus talks is suitable as a basis to start building the Arab ranks in a contemporary way based on action with one pure Arab will.

AL-AKHBAR expresses its confidence that Sultan Qabus' talks in Cairo will have clear and great results on the road to joint Arab action. The paper says the talk about Arab solidarity and the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations is the talk of the hour throughout the Arab homeland. It says the Arabs are very eager to achieve Arab solidarity and strengthen its foundations.

The paper expects the coming days will witness great Arab activities in which the Arabs will agree in their views, efforts, methods, action and direction. Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says the Arabs will proceed on the path to understanding. With the method of peace, the Arabs will profit and th Sinai will not be the last land liberated through understanding nor the only right achieved through peace. This will be their march throughout history -- a just and comprehensive peace and understanding on all rights.

MAY STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY

PM121419 Cairo MAY in Arabic 10 May 82 p 7

[Editorial: "When Will the Arab Ice Thaw?"]

[Text] The question currently preoccupying the Arab and international press is: When will normal relations be resumed between Egypt and its Arab brothers.

In answer to this question there have been many speculations, predictions and hopes. Commentators and analysts have been divided into two groups. One group, which is strongly optimistic, says the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations will take place in no time. The other group, which is strongly pessimistic, says the matter is unimaginably difficult and that there are still deep chasms of fear and doubts dividing the two sides.

The Egyptian stand on this issue, which is unlike either, is clear, frank and unequivocal. President Husni Mubarak has expressed this stand more than once when he said Egypt is not in a hurry. It is leaving the Arab brothers sufficient time to think over the question of restoring normal relations. Should they decide to join us, they are welcome. However, should they not decide now, that is up to them.

The Egyptian stand as expressed by President Mubarak is based on two fundamental principles: Self-confidence and the desire for the return of Arab solidarity on a sound and constructive basis.

There is no contradiction or conflict between the two principles, because a self-confident Egypt that is sure of itself and of the soundness of the political line it has pursued in the past years is capable, on the basis of such confidence, of restoring cohesion in the Arab ranks and of overcoming the negativism that has hampered joint Arab action in the recent past.

Egypt has proved its constant solicitude for Arab solidarity and its readiness to give this solidarity the maximum support possible. When Egypt was involved in the peace experiment with Israel its primary aim was to open the road to the liberation of the occupied Arab lands and restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Egypt's success in liberating the Sinai completely was the beginning of the path to liberating the rest of the Arab territories, as Sultan Qabus said the day before yesterday.

Egypt never lost its faith in the importance of Arab solidarity despite all the attacks on it because of its peaceful policy. Today, after the liberation of the Sinai, Egypt's belief in the importance of Arab solidarity and the need for it at this stage is increasing for many reasons:

First, the liberation of the rest of the occupied Arab lands makes it incumbent upon all Arab forces to rally in order to fight a political and diplomatic battle that is no less fierce, if not fiercer, than the battle of liberating the Sinai.

Second, the Arab nation is facing blistering winds of hatred and hostility. In the absence of Arab solidarity these winds can destroy many of the achievements of some Arab countries. Recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war are now the center of danger to which the Arab nation is being exposed. Despite Egypt's principled stand, namely its call for the immediate stopping of this tragic war, it did not hesitate to give the necessary aid and support for our Iraqi brothers.

Third, Arab wealth lost in the world's banks needs a joint Arab economic effort so it can be invested in developing Arab societies.

In light of all this, the importance of restoring Arab solidarity at this stage and of thawing the ice unnecessarily covering the Arab arena becomes obvious. As more than one Arab leader has said, there can be no Arab solidarity without Egypt, because Egypt is the center of the Arab offensive in both war and peace.

AL-AHRAM ON JERUSALEM AS AUTONOMY TALKS VENUE

NC112323 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)-- AL-AHRAM stresses that by insisting that Jerusalem be one of the venues for holding the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, Israel raises a problem for the city of the sanctities and exposes it to the winds of a new policy.

In Wednesday's editorial the paper says: It has been noted that in the past these negotiations were held without an uproar. They were held in Herzlia, north of Tel Aviv, in Israel, far away from Jerusalem. What has happened to warrant a change? Is it that the diplomatic concentration and international followup will be on the Palestinian autonomy, and does Israel want to tell the world that it has placed Jerusalem outside the framework of the discussions or precisely outside the framework of the West Bank and therefore it fits as a place for the discussions, because it is within Israeli territory, thus confirming its annexation and its legality as a capital?

AL-AHRAM says the methods of choice and attempts to make things impossible, which the Israeli policy has been pursuing, have exhausted their purposes following the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty. They are no longer accepted by those who sincerely seek to implement what remains of the clear and binding provisions of the agreements in order to continue the peace march.

The paper says that by its policy, Israel wants to put obstacles in the way of the discussions and that by these distasteful actions, fuels those in the Arab world who believe it is not serious.

GHALI RETURNS FROM NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND TRIP

NC092121 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo this evening concluding a visit of several days to Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Dr Butrus Ghali announced after his arrival that during his visit to the Netherlands he held talks with Foreign Minister Max van der Stoel. These talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East in light of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, especially because the Netherlands participates in the MFO. He indicated his talks in the Netherlands also dealt with the role the European states could play to give momentum to the peace efforts. They also dealt with the means of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and the Netherlands in all fields.

The minister of state for foreign affairs announced he will visit Portugal in the last third of this month to hold talks with its foreign minister on issues of mutual concern and strengthening cooperation between the two countries. Dr Ghali added that after concluding his visit to Portugal he will visit Belgium to attend the meetings of the Joint Committee for Cooperation Between Egypt and the EC, which will start on 25 May. During these meetings, means of cooperation between Egypt and the EC in all fields will be discussed.

It is worth noting that during his visit to Switzerland Dr Butrus Ghali attended the meetings of the International Law Committee in Geneva is his capacity as a member.

KAMAL HASAN 'ALI COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY

Talks to Assembly Bodies

NC112154 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2026 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that Egypt opens its arms to any Arab state for the restoration of Arab solidarity at any time according to this state's circumstances and at any time suitable to it, whether officially or semiofficially, as far as economic, tourism and other relations are concerned, provided these relations are founded on an objective and practical basis.

Speaking to a joint meeting of the Arab and Foreign Relations and National Security Committees in the People's Assembly this evening, attended by Deputy Prime Minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs Fikri Makram 'Ubayd and People's Assembly and Consultative Affairs Minister Muhammad Rashwan, 'Ali added that if Egypt is added to the Arab nation, it strengthens this nation, but if Egypt detaches itself from it, it weakens the Arab nation.

He said: Our commitment to the agreements which we have signed with Israel does not conflict with our historical Arab commitment, and Egypt cannot weigh these two commitments on a balance. There are goodwill motives for the restoration of Arab solidarity, but Arab consensus is lacking thus far for the restoration of solidarity. There are moderate Arab states and other hardline states which think Arab rejection should continue.

'Ali said that the eras before and after 25 April are connected, that Egypt has never abandoned its Arabism, that it will not submit to any outbiddings and that many statements are being made now about the restoration of the Arab relations. We hope the motive for these statements is purely to serve the Arab interests. The decision rests with each Arab state according to its circumstances.

The foreign minister went on: We believe in the course of the restoration of bilateral Arab relations. Egypt has not been sparing in sharing its huge resources with any Arab country. There are 3 million Egyptians working in the Arab states. There are 1.2 million Egyptians in Iraq alone. We realize that the restoration of full Arab solidarity cannot be achieved in the near future.

Regarding the question of Tabah and the borderline there, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: This is not a border problem, because the peace treaty stipulates Israel's withdrawal to beyond the international borders. It is a technical difference on the border markers, and the issue must be confined to this. A recourse to arbitration will lead to a quick settlement of the issue.

The foreign minister pointed out that Egyptian-Israeli talks will be held in Ismailia on Sunday to agree on the measures pertaining to arbitration in the question of Tabah. We will abide by the results of the arbitration, confident of our clear right, which is substantiated by documents and which prompted us to ask for arbitration.

'Ali said: There are no problems in the border area in Rafah and the situation there is 100 percent sound. An agreement has been reached with Israel to return 5,000 Palestinians who are now in Egyptian Rafah to the Gaza sector, where they previously resided, within 6 months.

Regarding the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that Egypt will carry on with the negotiations following Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai to achieve autonomy for the Palestinians and place them at the beginning of the road, in accordance with the Camp David agreement, in order to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem which is the essence of the Middle East conflict.

'Ali pointed out that the escalation of the Israeli excesses against the Palestinians does not serve a solution to the Palestinian problem. He said: We condemn these excesses as we previously condemned Israel's policy on building settlements and its annexation of east Jerusalem and the Golan. He said Jerusalem is considered the main point of disagreement vis-a-vis autonomy for the Palestinians.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister explained that its continuation will lead to more spilling of Muslim blood among the two sides and that it must be contained as soon as possible and ended by peaceful methods.

Regarding Egypt's position on the situation in Chad, 'Ali said: The situation there must be resolved by peaceful methods and on the level of Chad itself. The OAU resolutions must be implemented and an accord must be established among the warring factions in Chad.

Interviewed by Amman AD-DUSTUR

JN081815 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 82 p 11

[Text] Following the completion of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, the question of Egypt's return to the Arabs or the Arabs to Egypt has figured prominently on various levels. It is not strange that this question should create controversies and differences of opinion in many Arab countries. It is, however, useful to know the views of the Egyptians themselves on their relations with the Arab states and on the future of these relations. Accordingly, the AD-DUSTUR office in Cairo sent a number of questions to Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali who answered them as follows:

AD-DUSTUR: Following Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, what will be Egypt's role concerning the occupied Arab territories; will the Egyptian moves remain under the Camp David umbrella? In other words, will Egypt play a prominent role in any other international initiative that might have a different name?

Hasan 'Ali: From the signing of the Camp David agreement up to this moment, Egypt has maintained a cohesive, clear, frank, constant and logical position. We waged the battle for peace; and I think nobody can accuse us of having been idle in the fight for Palestine before the battle for peace. We waged the battle for peace with the aim of realizing a comprehensive and just settlement which would achieve for the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. We had an agreement with Israel which has resulted in complete Israeli withdrawal from the Egyptian and Arab Sinai. Our aim is to make the agreement and its result an established precedent that can we applied to the rest of the occupied Arab territories. We have realized the withdrawal from the Sinai under the Camp David umbrella, and we still believe that under the same umbrella we can realize further steps toward a comprehensive and just settlement for the entire Palestinian problem and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan.

In order to fulfill its pan-Arab commitments and historical role, Egypt will continue to work for the Arab cause. We will continue our attempts to realize full Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This autonomy will alleviate the suffering of our Palestinian brothers and pave the way for the Palestinian people so they can exercise their legitimate rights. Our attempts will also continue to keep the Palestinian cause a live issue on the international level and not to allow it to stagnate or fall prey to the big power struggle and polarization.

We deeply believe in our Arab role. We think that if we continue our attempts to establish genuine Palestinian autonomy, we will offer the Palestinian people a new opportunity to realize their aims without robbing them of their complete freedom of choice. We will continue these attempts as long as this remains the only possible way, and as long as the parties in the dispute do not find an alternative method. In the event these parties agree on some other alternative to reach a settlement, Egypt will not hesitate to shoulder its pan-Arab duty.

AD-DUSTUR: How do you evaluate the Jordanian role in the coming stage, particularly since the PLO has taken responsibility for the West Bank issue?

Hasan 'Ali: In our view, Jordan's role following the withdrawal from the Sinai will stem from various points, most important of which are Jordan's pioneering role in the Arab movement since the early 20th century; the special relationship which binds the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, the cohesion and ties between the Jordanians and the Palestinians as manifested recently in the coordination and dialogue between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership and the establishment of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee in support of the steadfastness of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan's geographic and political position on the map of the Middle East, and His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to close Arab ranks and mobilize Arab resources to face challenges posed by peace. Before the withdrawal from the Sinai, Jordan was devoted to realizing the minimum of Arab solidarity; now, along with the fraternal Arab states, Jordan continues its role in the attempts to change the present Arab status quo in which differences and confrontations are rife among the brothers, and to reach a stage where our Arab peoples can have confidence in the benefits which can be attained from joint moves by Arab leaders.

As for Jordan's role in the Palestinian cause, the 1974 Rabat summit conference decision [to consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians] did not cancel Jordan's role in the efforts to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region or in guaranteeing and establishing this peace and helping the Palestinian people to realize their national aspirations. As I have already said, the special relationship which binds the Palestinian and the Jordanian people cannot be bypassed. This special relationship was manifested in the past through the Palestinian presence in Jordan, the open bridges between Jordan and the occupied territories and the continuing Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. We must not forget also that Jordan has long borders with Israel and that the joint truce committee is still active. Jordan's role in establishing a comprehensive peace will definitely be basic and important.

AD-DUSTUR: Until now Israel has been intransigent and adamant on the issue of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and is calling these two territories Judaea and Samaria. Israel has annexed Jerusalem and the Golan. How is it possible to negotiate with Israel without any step of encouragement or any optimism in a successful negotiations?

Hasan 'Ali: When we began our peace with Israel, the Israeli foreign minister at the time, Moshe Dayan, made a famous statement in which he said: Israel prefers Sharm ash-Shaykh with no Egypt to peace with Egypt without Sharm ash-Shaykh. Now when we find the Egyptian flag hoisted over Sharm ash-Shaykh, we realize that to insist on right and principles and to remain firm in order to achieve this right and these principles will ensure righting the wrong no matter how impossible this may seem and how rough the going may appear.

The Sinai, with its true Arab names that could not be obliterated, has returned to Egypt. Where have Ofira, Yamit, 'Ertzion and the other extraneous names given to the Sinai areas and towns gone? Insisting on justice, using logic, bravely and confidently embarking on all available means leading to the objective and avoiding showmanship and slogans will guarantee the attainment of all our aims.

We have to unify our ranks, contact people the world over and convince them of the justice of our cause, link the interests of the rest of the world with out interests and turn our potentials and resources into a cultural impetus serving our pan-Arab objectives. We in Egypt are proud to have gained strong world support for the Arab cause. We have also shown the whole world that Egypt, which is Arab in objective and struggle, in word and deed, is capable of peaceful confrontation and defense of Arab rights at the negotiating table in the same way it is capable of defending these rights with a gun and a plane. Now it is our duty in the Arab world to benefit from the gains attained by the Palestinian people's cause and develop the methods of unified Arab action to achieve the best possible results. I am confident a unified peaceful Arab action can achieve the objectives of our Arab nation.

AD-DUSTUR: If relations between Egypt and the Arab countries were restored, would Egypt give priority to its agreements with Israel or to its agreements with the Arab countries when such agreements conflict?

Hasan 'Ali: Egypt has explained on more than one occasion that when it chose the path of peace it did not choose between the Arabs and Israel. It was a choice between war and peace. Our Arab identify is not subject to argument or suspicion. Therefore, we are not ready to receive advice and guidance with regard to our Arab and international commitments, which we all respect. It is natural for any country to have numerous and differing commitments but these commitments do not necessarily conflict and impede one another. We will honor our signature and carry out fully our commitments. We have performed and will continue to perform our pan-Arab duty to the fullest extent. Egypt will always safeguard the aims of its nation very sincerely and honestly.

AD-DUSTUR: What is your assessment of the Iraqi-Iranian war? What role does Egypt play in this regard?

Hasan 'Ali: Egypt's stand on the Iraqi-Iranian way has been clear from the beginning. It is a principled stand based on rejection of the use of armed force to settle differences between countries. This principled stand acquires a special meaning when the conflict is between two Arab or Islamic states. In view of its role and responsibility, Egypt cannot but denounce bloodshed among brothers. We are convinced that this war is not in the interests of the people of the region. In fact, it threatens to open the door to dangerous foreign forces lurking to interfere in our region, which threatens pan-Arab security as well as the security of the entire region.

We regret the continued sapping of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples' energies and resources. This must be stopped as soon as possible. However, while we condemn this war, we feel we have a special responsibility toward Iraq because of the national commitment and our struggle companionship. We in Egypt did not hesitate or spare efforts to help Iraq to the best of our ability because we did not want the Iraqi people to feel that their brothers in Arabism refrained from helping them in times of need. I want to make it clear here that helping Iraq does not mean lining up against Iran or helping one side against the other. The objective of our help to Iraq is to achieve a balanced situation that might help to convince the two sides of the futility of the determination to continue this war and to strengthen the inclination to achieve a peaceful settlement that might preserve the integrity and interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Hence, the Egyptian role is governed by two main factors:

First: the necessity of stopping the fighting as soon as possible and the starting of negotiations to settle the differences.

Second: to underline Arab solidarity in practice and not in words. Therefore, and within this framework, Egypt is ready to exert every possible effort to bring about peace between the two fraternal peoples and to help lead the region toward cooperation and development.

AD-DUSTUR: Are you going to attend the Nonaligned Movement's conference in Baghdad? Do you consider what happened in Kuwait as a change in the policy regarding Egypt?

Hasan 'Ali: We are one of the founding countries of the Nonaligned Movement and we have a leading and main role in the movement. So it will be natural to participate in the coming summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement as we did in the previous conferences. Actually the convocation of the conference in Baghdad this time, that is, in an Arab capital, makes it more important for us to attend.

Egypt's policy in all the Nonaligned Movement's recent conferences was to save the movement from polarization and division. We have to admit that the movement is facing a grave challenge threatening its existence and inevitability. Our faith in the principles of nonalignment and in the movement's role on the international level pushes us to intensify all efforts to save this movement from polarization and divisions. This movement still represents a wonderful hope for all the people of the Third World, a hope for a future governed by peace and by a balanced and just dealing with the economically developed countries. Egypt will always be in the front of those who work to achieve all this.

We went to fraternal Kuwait and we are certain that our presence [in Baghdad] will be welcomed by the brothers. The atmosphere that prevailed during the meetings of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau and governed inter-Arab relations was highly appreciated by us. This atmosphere represents a step forward that will remove the Arab action from differences. It will help to invest any positive results to serve the fraternal Palestinian people's interests and to restore their legitimate national rights.

Interviewed by Turkish Paper

NC110746 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 5 May 82 pp 1, 9; 6 May 82 p 9

[Interview granted by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali to CUMHURIYET correspondent Cengiz Candar in Cairo -- date not given]

[Text] Question: It is observed that after 25 April, Egypt embarked on an active diplomatic activity. Will this activity embrace Turkey as well?

Answer: I do not think the date 25 April has any special importance. As to our relations with Turkey, it is a brotherly Muslim country with which we have historic and present ties. I believe our relations with Turkey are stable and lasting.

Question: It is believed in Turkey that Turkish-Egyptian relations are not at the desired level and that they have been weak for years. To what can this be attributed, in your opinion? What are Egypt's priorities in this respect?

Answer: Let us begin as of today. We welcome the improvement of our relations with Turkey. These relations might not have been at the level we desired, but we are always ready to improve them.

Question: Using journalistic language, let us tackle difficult problems: Egypt's foreign policy is active. Will this activity be directed toward the reestablishment of relations with the PLO?

Answer: Egypt has never severed relations with any Arab country or organization. It is the Arab countries and organizations which have severed relations with Egypt. Within this context, we shall be pleased to see relations reestablished with any Arab country and with the PLO. We believe this will form the basis of efforts to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. We will, therefore, be pleased to see the reestablishment of relations with any Arab country or organization.

Question: But if Israel reacts to such a development, how will this affect normalization (in Egyptian-Israeli relations)?

Answer: This will never affect normalization. We all know the PLO maintains relations with all European countries and these relations do not in any way affect their relations with Israel. These are the facts of life. Why should relations with Israel be affected? We specifically accept that the PLO will be fundamentally a party to the future settlement of all aspects of the Palestinian issue or that it will contribute to such a settlement.

Question: What is it you would like to stress by the term "normalization" -- good, friendly relations with Israel or normal relations?

Answer: The interpretation of this term appears in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. It embraces all forms of relations with Israel: trade, communications and culture. And I believe that through such relations feelings of friendship too can also be developed. Of course, Israel is a neighboring country. We can therefore envisage future mutual feelings of friendship among the people at this level. This is how we see normalization. As to the implementation of the agreement, we are going to forge ahead.

Question: When President Mubarak assumed office there were press reports that Egypt would pursue a more balanced policy between the superpowers. Will you revert to your former relations with the Soviet Union? Naturally, I do not mean to the level of relations that existed during President 'Abd an-Nasir's time.

Answer: This does not depend solely on Egypt's will and wish. Whenever we encounter anti-Egyptian political activities and whenever we see the other side not behaving toward us as we behave toward it, the equilibrium with this or that country is upset. We have always wanted to maintain balanced relations with all countries. But, of course, this does not depend only on our will. Others must play their part, too.

Consequently, our relations with the Soviet Union are in a state of inaction. We are among the founders of the Nonaligned Movement. But we used to maintain relations with the Soviet Union also. We have tried to maintain a balanced policy. We are now on better terms with the United States. Nevertheless, we are preserving our nonaligned attitude. This is our policy and we are going to stick to it.

Question: May we infer from this that if the Soviet Union adopts a friendly attitude toward you, there might be a change of attitude?

Answer: This is what I have been trying to say.

Question: Certain circles, which have opposed the Camp David accord right from the start, argue that even after the return of the Sinai, Egypt has been unable to establish full national sovereignty there in view of the presence of the multinational force. How would you comment on this?

Answer: There were foreign military units in the Sinai even before 1967. They were UN units. We intended to have UN units in the Sinai. But unfortunately, those who oppose peace were in a position to obstruct a positive UN support for the Camp David accord. Therefore, we have been unable to form a UN force in the Sinai. However, if we look at the composition of the multinational force, we can say that it represents countries all over the world. It comes from Australia, Latin America, the United States and Europe. This proves it is an international force. What difference is there between this force and the United Nations force in the Sinai?

With regard to the question of sovereignty, we have forces in the Sinai. I mean armed forces. They cover 75 to 80 percent of the Sinai. The remaining part is under the complete sovereignty of our police force. Believe me, throughout history we have never had such a large force in the Sinai.

Everything is under Egypt's sovereignty. The positions occupied by the multinational force are only a few kilometers.

Question: Allow me to interrupt you at this point, honorable minister. The objection stems from the fact that the U.S. troops form the backbone of this force, and from the fact that these troops are attached to the rapid deployment force which constitutes the main factor in U.S. strategy for the region. This matter closely concerns my country, too.

Answer: We have received assurance from the United States that this force has nothing to do with the RDF. Moreover, this force is only one-fourth of the multinational force. The U.S. troops number only 600 and carry their own arms. There are no more than this number. Therefore, they cannot be considered as part of the RDF. Let me confirm that the positions in Sharm as-Shaykh do not by any means amount to a U.S. base. Sharm as-Shaykh is truly an Egyptian airfield. The Americans are positioned only on the coast, over a very limited area.

Question: What would Egypt's attitude be if Israel implemented a policy of violence against southern Lebanon and the West Bank? It appeared to be fairly quiet about these situations before 25 April. This attitude was understandable under the circumstances then -- not to endanger the withdrawal of Israel from the Sinai. But what about today?

Answer: In reality, this is a wrong comment on Egypt. For although part of the Sinai was occupied, we condemned Israel for attacking the Iraqi nuclear reactor. We have also condemned Israel's militant acts in Gaza and the West Bank as well as all of its violent acts in southern Lebanon. And we hope the absence of clashes on the Lebanese-Israeli border will continue so it will not affect the peace. We have called on the Israelis and the residents of the area, that is, the Palestinians, to build up confidence among them. This is our policy and we mean to further it.

Question: How do you explain Egypt's attitude which appears to be contradictory: President Mubarak declares, on the one hand, that the right to determine the fate of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians and, on the other, the Egyptian authorities reaffirm their loyalty to the Camp David talks on autonomy which has been rejected by the PLO, the national-political mouthpiece of the Palestinians.

Answer: There is not the slightest divergence between what President as-Sadat advocated in the past and what President Mubarak advocates today. Our policy is the same. The objective of this policy is to secure autonomy for the Palestinians both in Gaza and the West Bank in order to deliver them from hardships. We don't demand this for ourselves. We demand it for the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. This is a step toward the establishment of a comprehensive peace. This in itself doesn't constitute a solution to the Palestinian issue.

We have no formal authorization from the Palestinians to finalize the Palestine issue. But as stated at Camp David, this is full autonomy for the Palestinians. After 3 to 5 years of full autonomy, the Palestinians can sit at a conference table with the Israelis, Egyptians, the Jordanians and the Americans, and a comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue may be found. This is what Camp David envisages, and that is why we stick to Camp David.

Question: But this is exactly what the PLO and the Palestinians reject, isn't it?

Answer: We do not suggest a detailed solution of the autonomy question. We intend to establish the outlines of the principles involved. The Palestinians may, after examining these outlines, accept or reject them. They can play their role accordingly. This is the way out.

Question: Are you going to start talks on autonomy in the near future?

Answer: We, the three signatories of the Camp David accord, are currently exchanging views on the subject of resuming talks in the near future. I hope these talks will be resumed before the end of May.

Question: It has been observed that so far a new rapprochement between Egypt and the Arabs has been confined to the Arab countries known for their affiliation with the West. But in fact, Arab countries severed relations with Egypt and identified themselves with the Steadfastness Front. Does Egypt give priority to the Arab countries that are characterized as being in the orbit of the United States or is it in favor of improving relations with all Arab countries, irrespective of priorities?

Answer: As repeatedly stated, Egypt is ready to embrace with an open heart each Arab country that wishes to reestablish relations. We have absolutely no conditions to impose on any Arab state, but we do not accept any conditions either.

Question: Honorable minister, my final question: Do you intend to visit Turkey? That is, in the near future, say in a year's time?

Answer: To tell you the truth, I have not made any such plans so far, but it must be borne in mind.

Interviewed by Dubayy AL-BAYAN

GF081735 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 May 82 p 12

[Report on an interview granted by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali to AL-BAYAN correspondent Filib Jallab -- no date or place given]

[Excerpts] There are many predictions about which Arab states will be the first to resume relations with Egypt. Which will these states be, Iraq, Morocco, Jordan or....?

This was prior to the official announcement of the Moroccan foreign minister's visit to Egypt.

The Egyptian foreign minister said: It is not important who will begin or who will return to whom. Arab solidarity is a must. What is important is the nature of relations. For instance, I do not imagine that Egypt will restore relations with an Arab state which insists on attacking it at international conferences or attempts to suspend its membership in an international organization or boycott it in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions of 1978.

It is important that the Arab states which want to normalize relations with Egypt must renounce the state of contradiction, disagreement and dispute that has become the dominant characteristic of Arab relations with countries other than Egypt. The disagreement is not between Egypt and the Arab states alone, but even among the Arab states which boycotted Egypt.

I said: It is reported that Iraq will be among the first Arab states to restore relations with Egypt.

At this point, the foreign minister did not respond directly. He said: Egypt has not changed at all, either when it offered 100,000 martyrs and spent about $100 billion during the past 30 years for the Arab Palestinian question or when it adopted stands on other Arab questions.

The minister added: Egypt did not hesitate to denounce the Israeli attack on the Iraqi atomic reactor. Egypt's voice was the first in the world to denounce this aggression prior to the Israeli withdrawal for the Sinai.

Egypt also adopted the same position when Israel issued its decisions to annex Arab Jerusalem and the Golan. Then Egypt supported Iraq in its war with Iran. Egypt's ammunition and arms supply to Iraq reflects a principled Arab stand which concurs with the principles of international law and Arab solidarity.

I said to the minister: It seems you are unwilling to answer my specific questions.

He said in the same manner: Egypt opens its arms to the return of any Arab state to "mother Egypt." We welcome the first Arab state to adopt such an initiative, no matter what state it is.

I said: The president of the Republic of Egypt has for the first time said that the Arabian Gulf states in particular represent part of the strategic Egyptian security and that any threat to them would constitute a serious situation which Egypt would view with concern.

Why has he specifically mentioned [the Arabian Gulf]? Isn't the security of all the Arab states part of Egypt's strategic security and vice versa?

At this point the minister replied frankly, defining perhaps for the first time this new concept, whether we agree with his view or not. He asked: Is there any doubt that the Gulf states, which represent the entire Arabian Peninsula, represent a strategic support for Egypt from the East?

Then he answered his question, saying: There is no doubt about that. As much as the Gulf and Peninsula states are affected by what happens in Egypt, Egypt is also affected by what happens in the Gulf states.

The minister adds: The polarization process that is currently taking place may influence the Arabian Peninsula. This is what we want to protect it from; we want to protect it from any conflict between the superpowers in this region, which is considered one of the regions of international balance whose stability should be maintained. Thus said President Husni Mubarak in his speech, which was clear and obvious with regard to the importance of the Gulf and peninsula states for Egypt.

[Question] Isn't Egypt's security influenced by the security of the other Arab states?

[Answer] Egyptian security includes the entire Arab region. However, with the establishment of "peace" between Egypt and Israel there is no definite Egyptian security stand toward the northeast. But when Sudan is subjected to any aggression, Egypt's security is directly affected. Hence, the joint defense agreement with Sudan is so important that it it is at the top of the list of priorities for Egyptian security.

SINAI AIRPORT TO BECOME INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NC072313 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 7 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA) -- It has been decided to turn the Ra's an-Naqb Airport in Northern Sinai into an international airport that can accommodate jumbo and airbus aircraft. Publishing this information in tomorrow's issue, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH quotes Eng Muhammad Khattab, chairman of the Sinai Airports Department, as saying that the new airport will contribute to solving the problem of the teachers returning from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The new airport will be equipped with major navigational facilities. It is expected that the airport will be used by tourist companies, whose planes fly directly from Europe to Elat and Jerusalem.

MUBARAK MEETS SOCIALIST LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS

NC101030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has reaffirmed that the Palestinian question is our issue and that we raised the Palestinian question from one of refugees to one of a people and a state. In the dialogue published today in the newspaper AL-AHRAR, organ of the opposition [Socialist] Liberal Party, Mubarak said that if not for the Camp David agreements, hope would have been given up in the negotiations for the West Bank and Gaza. He said many Arabs concur that the peace agreement is the only solution, but they cannot declare their views publicly.

In this regard, President Mubarak pointed out that several years ago Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba called for a peace agreement with Israel. But then all the Arabs stood against him. President Mubarak said: "Today, Tunis stands against the peace agreement."

In response to questions by Liberal Party leaders -- during their meeting with President Mubarak -- on his ratification of the verdicts issued by the Supreme Military Court against the murderers of departed leader Anwar as-Sadat, President Mubarak said he is quite sure the verdicts are just. He added that he did not allow himself to interfere in the judiciary's business, because it is an independent authority and, from this premise, he apologized for not meeting with any of the defense lawyers or staff.

The dialogue between the Liberal Party leaders and President Mubarak dealt with Egypt's international relations. President Mubarak said Egypt is a nonaligned country and that Egypt is even a founding state of the Nonaligned Movement. Egypt adheres to this clear course, but this does not prevent strong relations with the United States or the Soviets. President Mubarak pointed in this regard to India, a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement having strong industrial and economic relations with the Soviets, adding that this does not at all mar it. He said we do not give bases or enter into alliances, but we have relations with the United States in Egypt's interest. Egypt benefits militarily and economically from its relations with the United States. We (?balance) our relations with the United States and the Soviets first and foremost on the basis of Egypt's interests. This does not contradict with our nonaligned status.

President Mubarak denied he has had any secret contacts with the Soviets on resuming relations or for any other purpose. He said some Soviet experts returned to Egypt last year to build certain Soviet factories, which was in the interest of industrializing Egypt.

The dialogue also dealt with the problem of Tabah, on which the Liberal Party leaders presented their views to prove Egypt's right to this area in the stages of negotiation and arbitration. President Mubarak said Egypt has presented Israeli maps and Zionist books affirming Egypt's right to Tabah.

On the Liberal Party's suggestion that the nomination for the state's presidency be made through the existing political parties, that this issue be submitted to the People's Assembly and that each party have one candidate, President Mubarak said this is reasonable and can be discussed and studied. He expressed his hope that the party experience will result in positive aspects benefiting the public interest in the coming stage. At that time, the Liberal Party's view that elections must take place in accordance with party lists can be considered.

On the Liberal Party's call for abolishing the exceptional laws and the duplicity between the jurisdictions of the socialist public prosecutor and the attorney general, President Mubarak said there is no fear of the exceptional laws, because they will only be applied minimally. As for duplicity, the legal bodies will consider this duplicity, which is confined to one aspect.

OPPOSITION LEADER SHUKRI ON RETURN TO ARAB FOLD

LD091434 Kuwait KUNA in English 1228 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May (KUNA) -- Leader of the Egyptian opposition [Socialist] Labour Party Ibrahim Shukri Sunday called for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold to help in the search for peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AS-SIYASAH he suggested Egypt could share in new initiatives for settlement of the Palestinian crisis, such as the Saudi blueprint offered by Prince Fahd last summer. Given the fact that Arab efforts to resolve the Palestinian crisis have not materialised to date, Egypt could play a part in fresh initiatives such as Prince Fahd's eight-point plan, he said.

Shukri was, however, specific in the participation of the "Palestinians" in any forthcoming peace talks under the Saudi plan which calls for establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the right to all states of the region, a disguised reference to Israel, to live in peace. He said Egypt's ability to introduce changes in the peace process prior to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, was limited and expressed confidence "in a freer drive by Mubarak during the coming period."

The controversial Saudi peace plan in the Middle East led to the breakup of the Arab summit in Fes, Morocco, last November.

MURAD INTERVIEWED ON POST-SINAI DEVELOPMENTS

PM100907 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 May 82 p 10

[Sulayman Fulayhan interview with Dr Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, in Cairo: "The Change in Egypt Has Not Been Confined Only to Withdrawal From Sinai" -- date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-WATAN: Following the withdrawal from the Sinai, observers differ in their expectations regarding the next phase. While some believe there will be unspecified changes in Egyptian domestic, Arab and international policies, others believe any change in the present policies is unlikely. How do you view the post-Israeli withdrawal phase?

[Answer] I believe the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai has not been the only change in Egypt. There is a new president. The new president's way of dealing with Israel, the United States and the fraternal Arab states is different from As-Sadat's. This is bound to affect certain aspects of our relations with the Arab states in particular and the world community in general. I am not saying there has been a complete change or shift, but the day will come when we will begin to see the positive effects of this change on the Arab situation.

I believe neither Egypt nor the Arab states should make preconditions for the restoration of their relations, because the restoration of relations will itself lead to the resolution of all differences. Let us consider that the past events happened in a past era, and let us turn over a new page.

AL-WATAN: But Dr Hilmi, how can normal Egyptian-Arab relations be restored while Egypt still adheres to the Camp David agreements and the separate peace with Israel?

[Answer] I, and other forces and figures, opposed the two Camp David agreements, that is "the peace framework and the treaty," when they were submitted to the previous People's Assembly for discussion. What I wish to say here is the signed accord had two parts: The first part provided for withdrawal from Egyptian territory and normalization of relations with Israel. It is regrettable the agreement stipulated that the normalization should take place before the completion of the withdrawal. This is one of the points we objected to. However, in the post-Sadat era we now consider that this agreement has served its purpose in that the withdrawal and the normalization have taken place. In other words there is no state of war with Israel. However, the day to day relations are up to us and nobody can force us to trade with Israel or subsidize our companies trade Israel. Egypt has normal relations with many states. In some cases, such as Nicaragua and Mexico, the relations are unimportant because they are very limited. The continuation of our normal relations with Israel will depend on Israel's conduct in the region and its attitude toward the other Arab states. If Israel is interested in true comprehensive and durable peace in the region, then it must agree to a peaceful settlement of disputes with the Arab states concerned and it should recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, especially their right to set up their own state on their own territory.

This leads us to the second part, namely the autonomy negotiations on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The success of the negotiations would have meant only that a proposal would be submitted by Egypt and Israel to the representatives of the Palestinian people. The treaty stated the autonomy negotiations should be completed within a year of the date of the ratification of the treaty. The negotiations have now been going on for 3 years, not 1 year, and they have failed and are deadlocked as a result of Israel's intransigence, arrogance and strange interpretation of the text -- a matter that we cautioned about when the treaty was discussed. Therefore, Egypt is no longer legally bound by the provisions of the treaty on autonomy because the deadline has passed. It is thus possible to accept any other initiative by any side for the settlement of the Palestine problem, on the basis of negotiations with the participation of the PLO, acknowledged not only by the Arab summit conferences but also by the United Nations as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and in the presence of the two superpowers and all the Arab sides concerned. This approach would be in the interests of the peoples of the region and would lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace. This would also be in Israel's interest, if it really wants to live in peace among the Arab people and abandons its ambition to control the region militarily and economically.

AL-WATAN: What, in your opinion, are the practical ways of achieving Egyptian-Arab rapprochement following 25 April?

[Answer] Egyptian-Arab rapprochement can be achieved in various ways, such as inviting Egypt to an Arab summit conference and promoting the right atmosphere for acceptance of such an invitation. This would be a good initiative to reconnect what was severed, with good will on all sides. Arab rapprochement is the strongest weapon we have against the various challenges. It can also be achieved with invitations to bilateral meetings between the heads of state of Egypt and the other Arab states, provided this way is paved with unofficial contacts and with the exchange of popular visits to create a propitious atmosphere for official contacts.

I believe it is in the interest of the United States, particularly at this time, to have stability in the Middle East and good relations with the Arab states, in view of the struggle for the oil resources and in view of what has happened in Iran. The United States should seize the opporutnity and adopt an even-handed policy leading to solutions fulfilling our objectives. Accordingly, the required moves should not be moves creating new problems in the region. However, if, despite all the good will, the peaceful settlement fails and Israel continues to be stubborn, and if the United States sacrifices its interests for the sake of Israel, then we would not be blamed if we followed another course.

In my opinion it is wrong to begin to create reasons for discord and add more problems to the already existing problems, because this would only complicate the issue, not settle it. Our aim is to achieve a peaceful settlement. U.S. interests lie in the promotion of a peaceful settlement. Egypt's position on the treaty concluded with Israel must be a wait and see position. If the remaining disputes between Israel and the Arabs are settled amicably, then the target will have been reached and everyone will be satisfied. However, if Israel violates international charters and convenants, and if it rejects peaceful solutions and mediation by the superpowers and the United Nations, then Egypt will take another stand dictated by its UN membership, its being a signatory of the Arab joint defense pact, and its own interests in the region. We must not forget the settlement of the present Arab differences takes time.

AL-WATAN: It has recently been reported that President Mubarak will form a national coalition government following the withdrawal, and some members of the opposition will participate in it. How true is this, and are you willing to join a government commiting itself to the Camp David agreements?

[Answer] There have been no contacts or discussions on this matter. In the event of such contacts in the future, agreement must first be reached on the policies to be followed, to ensure the coalition is based on sound foundations. These policies would naturally include domestic affairs, Arab and foreign relations. I cannot say with any certainty what the consensus will be regarding the details, dimensions and various stages of these policies.

URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 12 MAY

NC122002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) -- Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Estanislao Valdes arrived in Cairo this evening leading a delegation on a 4-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During his visit, he will hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. He will sign an agreement on tourist cooperation between Egypt and Uruguay.

Upon his arrival, the Uruguayan foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. He also expressed his country's support of Egypt's policy and its leadership, which is working for peace. He said despite its small size, Uruguay is seeking to achieve peace in the world and, for this reason, it decided last September to participate in the multinational force aimed at achieving peace.

Dr Valdes was received at Cairo airport by Dr Butrus Ghali, senior Foreign Ministry officials and Uruguayan Ambassador in Cairo Gaston Rebollo Sciarra.

SADDAM HUSAYN CONFERS WITH JORDAN'S BADRAN

JN121525 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1517 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran here this afternoon. They discussed bilateral relations and the means of further developing them. They also reviewed the most important military developments in the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Tariq Hamid al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary general and acting director of the president's office; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad. Mudar Badran left Baghdad this afternoon after a short visit.

ROMANIA'S STANESCU ARRIVES FOR ECONOMIC TALKS

JN092058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA) -- Ion Stanescu, Romanian secretary of state of the Ministry of Industrial Construction, arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq. The Romanian official and his delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials on means to consolidate relations of cooperation in the various fields, particularly in the industrial field.

PRESIDENT'S ENVOY RETURNS TO BAGHDAD 10 MAY

JN110659 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0200 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Hashimi, special envoy of President Saddam Husayn and minister of higher education and scientific research, returned to Baghdad last night after a tour of five Arab countries. Al-Hashimi delivered written messages from the president to the leaders of Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Mauritania and Sudan inviting them to attend the seventh summit conference of the nonaligned heads of state and government that will be held in Baghdad in September.

PRESIDENT'S ENVOY LEAVES FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

JN110943 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn's envoy to leaders of eight African countries left Baghdad this morning carrying official invitations to attend the seventh nonaligned summit, which will be held in Baghdad in September. The envoy, Youth Minister Karim Mahmud al-Mulla, will visit Mali, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Cape Verde Islands. Last week, President Saddam Husayn sent three envoys to Arab countries on similar missions. More Iraqi envoys will visit other nonaligned countries to extend official invitations to attend the conference.

More Envoys

JN120913 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) -- Two envoys of President Saddam Husayn to the leaders and kings of five Asian and four African states left Baghdad this morning.

'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz ad-Din, minister of education, left for Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Laos and Singapore, while Muhammad Fadil, minister of public works and housing, left for the Congo, Gabon, Zaire and Angola.

The two envoys are carrying written messages to the leaders and kings of the Asian and African states inviting them to attend the seventh summit conference of nonaligned heads of state and government which will be held in Baghdad on 6 September. Yesterday, another Iraqi envoy, Karim Mahmud Husayn, left for eight African states for the same reason.

SPOKESMAN SAYS 28 IRANIANS KILLED IN NOWSUD AREA

JN101838 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] A military spokesman has made the following statement:

Our forward units have pounded the Persian enemy's positions and concentrations in the Nowsud area and in the area opposite Panjwin in the northern sector of the operations theater, inflicting on them losses in life and equipment. Known enemy losses amount to 28 killed and 1 vehicle, 1 stockpile of hardware and several emplacements destroyed.

INA SAYS SHALAMCHEH 'FAR BEHIND' FRONTLINE

JN111109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Shalamcheh, 11 May (INA) -- The INA correspondent says dozens of Iranian POW's arrived in the Shalamcheh area at noon today on their way to Basrah.

The correspondent adds Iraqi medical units in Shalamcheh provided medical treatment to some of the wounded who spent a few hours in that border area for rest.

The correspondent says press and television correspondents interviews some of the POW's.

The Shalamcheh area consists of two border posts: one Iraqi and the other Iranian. The area is currently in the rear and far behind the battle frontlines.

FORCES TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER KHORRAMSHAHR

JN121608 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 12 May (INA) -- An INA correspondent, who spent the day today with Iraqi units in Shalamcheh, has cited a military commander in the area as confirming that Iraqi forces are tightening their full control of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramsahhr] and that Abadan is under the mercy of Iraqi fire.

The Iraqi commander dismissed the Iranian enemy's allegations that its forces have arrived in the area, adding these allegations are a link in the enemy's chain of lies and false statements. He added the Iraqi units are in control of the entire area tens of kilometers deep inside Iranian territory.

The correspondent reported he had witnessed a new batch of Iranian POW's arriving in Shalamcheh after their evacuation from the frontlines.

AD-DUSTUR URGES ARABS TO CHOOSE WAR OR PEACE

JN120837 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arabs and the Three Options" AD-DUSTUR says: Although all Arab states realize the danger of the current phase, and each one of them -- in its own way -- calls for confronting the spreading Zionist danger, it is strange and worrying there are no reassuring signs about the possibility of the Arabs reaching an agreement on a joint plan or action to cope with the rapid events and confront the developments likely to occur.

The Arab states, as a result of their divisions, disputes and inaction have entered a state of no war, no peace. This makes Israel the only power in the region deciding and imposing what it wants without considering the Arabs and without taking into account any Arab reaction that might prevent it from tightening its grip over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and continuing its aggressions on the refugee camps and the Palestinian resistance to liquidate the cause of Palestine and swallow up all Palestinian territory.

The painful reality the Arab states have reached puts them before three options: war, peace or surrender to the fait accompli imposed on the Arab states and the whole world by Israel because of its power and military superiority. AD-DUSTUR adds: If the Arabs choose war, for example, then logic makes it incumbent on them to quickly formulate a comprehensive strategy to achieve military and strategic balance with the enemy, a matter that, first and foremost, calls for getting rid of disputes and working for a minimum level of real solidarity and cooperation. Without this, no progress can be achieved despite all the beguiling pan-Arab slogans and rhetoric. Choosing war requires urgent and serious efforts to build solidarity and strength.

The paper says: Choosing peace also needs a unified and strong stand in order to present an Arab peace plan that can be unanimously agreed on. Perhaps, resuming discussions on the Fahd plan, which has now become an Arab plan after being presented at the Fes summit, could constitute a turning point for a comprehensive Arab move to present this plan on the international arena in order to gain international agreement on adopting and implementing it to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Thus, the Arabs would emerge from the state of no war, no peace as a force capable of moving and confronting the Israeli challenge with peace, since they are incapable of confronting it with war.

JORDAN TIMES VIEWS RESUMPTION OF EGYPT-ARAB TIES

JN121135 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 May 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Can It Be Done?"]

[Text] Will Egypt and the other Arab states restore normal diplomatic ties? Will the Arab boycott of Egypt end soon? These are some of the questions that have occupied many people's minds in the area since the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai last month. We do not want to add to the speculation, but rather would like to remind ourselves, and interested observers, of a few salient points:

1. Most of the Arab states broke their ties with Egypt because of the unilateral Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement. Though it was the personality of the late President as-Sadat that was largely responsible for the separate peace between Israel and Egypt, it was the policy that he initiated that caused the Arabs to break with him.

Mr as-Sadat is gone, but his policies have come to fruition. To restore normal ties with Egypt now could seem to go against the many reasonable princiuples that were agreed upon at the Baghdad summit and subsequent Arab meetings.

2. A move to restore Arab-Egyptian diplomatic ties, given the chaotic state of inter-Arab affairs, could well compound the chaos, and not easily remove it.

3. It is difficult to see how Egypt could have any practical influence on Israel, either militarily or politically. Therefore it is also hard to imagine how Egypt could contribute in practice to continuing the Arab struggle to come to terms with Israel.

And yet, despite all this, Egypt is Arab, and Arabism relies heavily on its Egyptian component. Can the Arabs who broke with Egypt over the peace treaty with Israel reassert the Arabism of Egypt without compromising the principles that caused the break in the first peace? This is what is happening in the region today -- a sincere attempt to make use of Egypt's Arabism without swallowing its peace treaty with Israel. Can it be done? We shall find out soon enough.

BCP'S TODOROV CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS 12 MAY

Meets Badran 10 May

JN101325 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the Palestinian cause is the central Arab issue and the Arab countries are seeking to establish a lasting peace established on the principles of right and justice.

During a meeting today with the Bulgarian parliamentary delegation headed by Stanko Todorov, chairman of the National Assembly and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Politburo, the prime minister said Israel refuses to accept the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to their national soil and wants to expand at the expense of Arab territory. He stressed Israel's expansionist policy will not achieve the desired peace in the Middle East. Badran praised Bulgaria's stands supporting Arab rights and the Palestinian cause. He said these stands are respected and appreciated by the Arab nation.

Todorov stressed his country's known stand on the Arab issues. He conveyed the Bulgarian prime minister's greetings to the prime minister. During the meeting, which was attended by Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni, bilateral relations and the possibility of cooperation in economic, agricultural, industrial, tourist and cultural fields were discussed.

Press Conference at Departure

JN121331 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Stanko Todorov, Bulgarian National Assembly chairman, stated that a just and lasting peace will not be achieved in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people regain all their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their own independent state on their national soil.

In a press conference held in Amman this morning prior to his departure for home following a 4-day visit to Jordan, Todorov said Bulgaria appreciates Jordan's firm stand on the Palestine question and its rejection of the Camp David accords and separate solutions. Todorov pointed out the Bulgarian and Jordanian viewpoints are identical on all issues which concern the Middle East and world peace. Todorov said his country supports the proposal calling for holding an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Todorov condemned Israel's expansionist settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and its hostile acts against the Arab states, particularly its continued aggressions against Lebanon, describing them as barbaric acts which recall the injustice suffered by Europe under Nazism and fascism.

Answering a question on the meeting that the Political Committee of the European Council intends to hold in the occupied city of Jerusalem, Todorov said Bulgaria opposes and denounces any initiative detrimental to the legal status of Jerusalem and the just Palestinian cause. He also said the holding of such a meeting will only aggravate international tensions and differences. Todorov pointed out such an initiative is considered to be open bias by the political committee of the European Council.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Todorov said that his country believes this war does not bring any good to either country and that the only beneficiaries are the forces of world colonialism and Zionism. That is why his country calls for a peaceful settlement through negotiations to solve the dispute and safeguard the rights of both sides.

Concluding his press conference, Todorov stated His Majesty King Husayn has accepted an invitation to visit Bulgaria and a date for the visit will be set later on. The Bulgarian parliamentary delegation left Jordan this afternoon.

BADRAN RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD VISIT 12 MAY

JN121702 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran returned to Amman this afternoon after a short visit to fraternal Iraq during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Brother President Saddam Husayn. He also discussed with his excellency the latest developments and all aspects of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister.

AL-QASIM RETURNS FROM MOROCCO, MAKES STATEMENT

JN111054 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 May 82

[Excerpts] Amman, 11 May (JNA) -- Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman last night after heading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the sixth session of the Jerusalem Committee and the board of directors of the Jerusalem Fund. Al-Qasim participated in the ceremony declaring the Moroccan city of Fes as the twin city of Jerusalem.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, Al-Qasim said the Jordanian delegation presented a working paper to these meetings including specific practical steps to bolster the steadfastness of the people of Arab Jerusalem against annexation and Judaization plans, to repair the damage to the blessed Dome of the Rock due to the occupation authorities' attack on it on 11 April and to strengthen the measures and arrangements to protest the Al-Aqsa mosque against attempts by occupation authorities.

Al-Qasim said the Jordanian delegation also stressed the need to quickly cover the Jerusalem Fund capital and turn it into a religious trust. It also stressed the need to extend financial and moral support to Jerusalem and the occupied territory citizens to enable them to remain steadfast and to confront continued designs at annexation, Judaization and emptying the territory of its citizens. Jordan also requested all Islamic Conference members to support the Jordanian move in UNESCO to include Jerusalem in the list of world heritages threatened with danger. Al-Qasim indicated all Jordanian proposals on this matter have been approved.

CABINET DISCUSSES TRIPOLI EVENTS, ISRAELI RAID

NC121453 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended at 1500 today. After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar Musayki made the following statement:

At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency President Sarkis briefed the Cabinet on the various efforts made by the authorities with the parties concerned on both the Israeli aggression last Sunday and the security setback in Tripoli. His excellency expressed the hope these efforts would result in an end to the Israeli enemy aggressions and to the fighting in Tripoli. His excellency asked the ministers concerned to use all their resources to alleviate the suffering of the citizens affected by the Tripoli clashes and the raids on the south and other Lebanese areas.

The Cabinet devoted the whole session to discussing the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression and ambitions in the south and the security situation in Tripoli. The Cabinet heard in this respect a report by the prime minister, who reviewed the contacts and efforts exerted on the official level to deal with the situation in the south and Tripoli. The Cabinet also heard a report by the foreign minister, who explained the contacts taking place on the international level to stop Israeli aggression.

After each minister expressed his views on these two subjects, the Cabinet took note of His Excellency President Sarkis' intention to continue the contacts on the highest levels through appropriate channels in coordination with the prime minister to stop the security deterioration in Tripoli. The Cabinet also took note of the recourse taken by Lebanon to the UN Security Council on the situation in the south and of the contacts taking place in this regard. The Cabinet asked for an intensification of these contacts to end the Israeli aggression and avoid a repetition through the necessary measures.

AL-WAZZAN, 'ARAFAT DISCUSS SOUTH, TRIPOLI

NC130840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met at midnight last night to discuss developments in the present situation in southern Lebanon and Tripoli.

It has been learned that there was complete agreement on the need for exerting every effort to consolidate the cohesion of the internal front and to do everything possible to confront the Israeli aggression. It has been agreed to continue the Lebanese-Palestinian coordination efforts to meet all eventualities.

TRIPOLI CLASHES, CEASE-FIRE ATTEMPTS CONTINUE

Two Security Members Injured

NC121341 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The security situation in Tripoli is relatively quiet. The joint security committees faced some difficulties which later were overcome.

At 1330 [1130 GMT] today, a security committee came under sniper fire near the As-Santral center in Bab at-Tabbanah, and two committee members were wounded. However, the committee continued its efforts to consolidate security.

12 May Casualties Reported

NC130713 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Efforts are continuing at various levels in Tripoli to consolidate the cease-fire that held last night after the setbacks during the day. Four persons were killed and 19 wounded yesterday. Consultations continue on firmly stabilizing the cease-fire to lead to the restoration of normal conditions in the city.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, members of the coordination committee in the north and members of the higher security committee presently in Tripoli held extensive contacts as a result of which it was decided to implement certain measures to tackle any emergency. It was possible to reposition the joint forces in Ba'l Muhasin al-'Ali and Al-Wati and in Tal'at al-Kuwa' and otherpoints in At-Tabbanah, making the positions face one another to prevent any confrontation between the armed men and to put an end to sniper fire. Tripoli has spent a calm night.

However, Karami believes field arrangements cannot dispense with radical political solutions and has called upon the parties concerned to reach a political agreement, which is the only way to save the city.

Businesses Reopen 12 May

NC131044 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] The latest reports on the security situation in Tripoli this morning indicate there is continuous improvement as a result of the efforts of the higher security committee and the coordination committee, which is in constant session under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Work resumed today in official and private establishments as well as banks but schools remained closed. A state of caution prevails in the areas of clashes.

AL-WAZZAN MEETS WITH UK ENVOY, UNIFIL COMMANDER

NC131048 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning summoned British Ambassador to Lebanon David Roberts and asked him to convey to his government the Lebanese Government's view on the reduction of British diplomats in Beirut.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan earlier met with UNIFIL commander Gen William Callaghan, in the presence of some officers of the UN Command, with whom he reviewed the additional forces in the south and the continuous Israeli threats to Lebanon. After the meeting, General Callaghan said additional forces will arrive shortly and some of them have already arrived from Ghana and Ireland. Answering a question on Israel's pumping of water from the Al-Litani River, General Callaghan said the observers have noticed no pumping of water there but the observation will continue and an investigation is underway.

SANA: HAFIZ AL-ASAD TO VISIT LIBYA, ALGERIA

JN130609 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] SANA has learned that President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Libya and Algeria within the next 2 days.

VOL REPORTS ON CLASHES, EXPLOSION IN ALEPPO

NC121353 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 May 82

[Excerpt] In Aleppo, 14 people have been killed in clashes between special units and the Muslim Brotherhood, and scores of people have been injured in an explosion in Bab al-Faraj Square.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, a Syrian officer and three soldiers have been killed in new clashes between special units and the Muslim Brotherhood in (Al-Jamiliyah) and [name indistinct] graveyard in Aleppo. This prompted Syrian soldiers to shell a building with artillery and rockets, killing 10 people.

At 1000 the day before yesterday, an explosive device went off in the Bab al-Faraj area, which was congested with people. Scores of people were injured and heavy material damage was caused. According to the same information, people in Aleppo are living in fear and anxiety following an increase in the kidnapping of civilians, particularly girls. Earlier, the main streets in Hamah were blocked to facilitate the search for persons who helped Ahmad 'Aqlah, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, escape from prison.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON U.S. 'HATRED' FOR SYRIA

JN120945 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 12 May (SANA) -- In a commentary today, ATH-THAWRAH says the U.S. onslaught against the region is taking different forms to make the Arab nation kneel down. The onslaught is particularly directed at the steadfast Arab forces led by Syria, because Washington considers the Syrian stand to be the main obstacle to its plans.

The paper says: U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stoessel's statement in Paris that Syria is obstructing settlement of the region's problems, just because Syria is against an imposed U.S. solution, shows the U.S. hatred for Syria -- which is against attempts to impose the Camp David solution -- especially with regard to the Palestine question, and against attempts to export the Camp David process to other Arabs through the Mubarak regime's return to the Arab fold.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Under cover of U.S. military presence in the Sinai, which has become a concentration point and a bridgehead for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, and the U.S. officials' rancorous statements and attacks against Syria, puppet and collaborating regimes are again active, thinking that the time is ripe to openly join the conspiracy and play a role in it.

The paper concludes: The U.S.-Zionist onslaught is concentrating on Syria after existing facts in the region have established that Syria is the strongest side now, because its stand is backed by the masses of the Arab nation throughout the great Arab homeland and also because the issue of war and peace can only be determined by this stand. Therefore, any attempt to ignore or circumvent this stand is bound to fail -- hence the hatred and hostility of the United States and its agents against Syria. However, Syria will remain steadfast, because it is the stronger side and also because it represents the side that stands for right and justice and adheres to the course of principles and struggle that seeks to achieve the objectives of the Arab masses and the triumph of their just cause.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

PM120905 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 4 May 82 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad reprinted from AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI of 3 May 1982 -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] It is known that Syria was not the only Arab country to condemn the Camp David agreements. The Baghdad summit, which was described as the summit of minimum Arab solidarity, decided on several measures and declared its rejection of Camp David. Nevertheless, in past years the Camp David process progressed despite all opposition to it. Does this mean the agreements in themselves or the parties to them in the area are stronger than the opposition forces facing them, particularly the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front?

[Answer] The Camp David agreements reached an impasse long ago after they failed to win any supporter over to becoming a partner in them. This was the biggest failure for the strategic policy on which the Camp David agreements are based. The first stage of Camp David was confined to As-Sadat's Egypt and Mubarak's Egypt, as the latter is still pursuing As-Sadat's political course to the last detail. Therefore, it would be wrong to say the Camp David agreements have succeeded despite those who oppose them. The entire Arab nation, with the exception of a few rulers, have rejected them.

The Camp David agreements have failed, and this failure will make the agreements erode little by little, because what is contrary to the rule and logic of history and to the interests of our nation and our Arab people in Egypt cannot last. A ruler might commit treason or act contrary to his nation's will, but the nation's strength lies in its consciousness of its interests and of its future. Such consciousness does exist to a great extent, which makes us confident of our future and ourselves. Such consciousness is the barrier that has prevented the spread of the Camp David agreements and will remove the effects of these agreements, whatever they may be and wherever they may occur.

[Question] In other words, you are wagering on a change in Egypt's stand on Camp David through action within the regime itself or outside it. Many Arab countries look at the period after 25 April as the step that will ensure Egypt's return to the Arab fold with the help of the regime itself.

[Answer] We do not and will not wager on any particular individual. We have wagered on the cause and future of a people. Accordingly, any regime that becomes involved in commiting high treason against the Arab nation is a regime that is bound to disappear, because it cannot last. The political course pursued by As-Sadat's regime led to his assassination. A continuation of this course by any ruler after As-Sadat will lead to his meeting As-Sadat's fate. As-Sadat's fate was the symbol of what can befall treacherous traitors in the Arab homeland. This symbol is still strong and lives on in the minds of all Arab citizens.

[Question] Many voices are being raised in Arab capitals asking that President Mubarak be given a chance after the recovery of the whole of the Sinai on 25 April in the belief that this will mark Egypt's return to the Arab ranks.

[Answer] We all know Husni Mubarak, the present head of the Egyptian regime, but we want him to identify himself. When Predident Mubarak says he is continuing to follow As-Sadat's line and that he is faithful to it and is committed to the treaties and will honor all commitments undertaken by As-Sadat, he has left nothing to be said about him in the Arab homeland. He has agreed to be an executor of what others planned and imposed on Egypt. How then can we judge him other than by what he himself says about the political line he follows.

[Question] Let us move on to Syria's relations with the Gulf countries. It is said that the Syrian economy is facing many difficulties and that one of the main reasons for this is the halting of some aid from the Gulf and the reduction of other aid. How true is this?

[Answer] The Syrian Arab economy is strong, because it is founded on a national and independent basis. It is governed only by our will. Since 1970, we have been able to build a sound basis for the national economy and to take very long strides in the field of national development.

There is no doubt that the Arab aid that was approved at the Baghdad summit was a contributing factor to easing the burden of national commitments on Syria, but our economy is not built on such aid. Our economy will not die if such aid is stopped.

In any case, who said this aid has stopped or will stop? It is continuing, and our relations with our brothers whether in Saudi Arabia or the rest of the Arab Gulf countries are fraternal and strong.

[Question] It is known that the Kuwaiti National Assembly has decided to stop aid to Syria. Has this decision affected your relations with Kuwait?

[Answer] We have made no comment on what a handful of people said at the Kuwaiti National Assembly. If the Kuwaiti Government wishes to fulfill its national commitments it is not in any way bound by the Kuwaiti National Assembly's views considering the Kuwaiti Constitution and the functions of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

[Question] The latest reports speak of tension on the Syrian-Iraqi border. Iraq has accused Syrian aircraft of violating Iraqi airspace. Is a military confrontation with Iraq likely to occur?

[Answer] The Iraqi military spokesman's statement on Syrian fighter aircraft violating Iraqi airspace and carrying out reconnaissance over Iraqi territory is absolutely untrue. This is intended to divert attention from the suffering of Iraqi citizens and from the suffering of the heroic Iraqi Army, which has been put in an awkward position and does not believe in the task it has been assigned. With such allegations the Iraqi regime wanted to create a scapegoat for its mistakes.

[Question] What about Syrian-Soviet relations? It has been reiterated recently that there is some coolness in relations and some disagreement over whether or not the friendship and cooperation treaty covers Syrian forces in Lebanon. In other words, is the Soviet Union, under the terms of the treaty, obliged to intervene on Syria's side if these forces become the target of an Israeli attack?

[Answer] The Western powers are not concerned if relations between us and our friends in the Soviet Union are cool. They are concerned by the continuation of the strong strategic ties between Syria and the Soviet Union. I would like to assure you first -- and everyone already knows this -- that relations between the two countries are firm and strategic. This strong friendship is developing continuously for objective reasons, and the horizons of friendship are very broad.

Second, the Soviet Union has supported and still supports our just cause and is still supporting this cause in every field.

Third, the Soviet Union is the only major power that is enabling us to defend ourselves in the face of the armed garrison in occupied Palestine, which is placed at the disposal of racist leaders who are threatening the Arab people, have designs on Arab land and imagine that they can continue to occupy Arab land.

Moreover, we cooperate with the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist camp for the benefit of our country and the common interests of Syria and those countries. This mutual benefit is becoming broader and deeper and, therefore, is strengthening the basis on which we have built our strategic friendship with the Soviet Union. Our relations are excellent and are continuously improving in all fields.

[Question] It has often been said in this regard that there is a tendency toward upgrading the Syrian-Soviet treaty into a strategic treaty similar to the Israel-U.S. treaty.

[Answer] We and our friends in the Soviet Union have agreed, whether before or after the friendship and cooperation treaty, on promoting our friendship and developing our relations in all fields in a manner that will enable us to repel and deter any aggression, to seriously seek to liberate our occupied territories and to restore the usurped rights of our Palestinian people.

[Question] Europe has participated in the multinational force deployed in the Sinai despite pressures and threats by Arab countries. How do you view this matter, and do you believe Europe can really play a political role in the area?

[Answer] We have encouraged the European countries with which we have contact to play a political role in the interest of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area. We encouraged an independent European role that did not come under the United States and was not influenced by Zionism so that such an initiative could be given a chance to succeed and win international respect and our -- the Arabs' -- appreciation and encouragement. Unfortunately, the European countries agreed to participate in the Sinai force. In no way does this action contribute to proceeding on the path of just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the area. By their action, the European countries have further complicated the situation and deepened Arab despair with Europe's inability at present to play any political role in the Middle East.

ITALY'S FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

Arrival Statement

AU122044 Rome ANSA in English 1955 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 12 May (ANSA) -- Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo flew in here this afternoon for a working visit during which he will have meetings with Israeli leaders such as Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, opposition leader Shim'on Peres and, possibly, head-of-state Yitzhaq Navon. In an arrival statement, he pointed to the "so many grave tensions" with which "equilibria, stability and peace (in the world) seem, if not compromised, gravely threatened". In this context, he asserted that the Middle Eastern problem "acquires, if possible, even greater relief and delicacy". In other points, he described the reopening of the Israeli-Egyptian frontier in the Sinai Peninsula as a "gesture of great courage and political foresight", but also warned that "any step back in this region risks being multiplied, rather than held back, by the general situation".

Further Comments

TA121921 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 12 May -- Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo promised this evening Italy would support any step made for peace in Israel and said Italy would encourage Israel in any action for the advancement of peace and friendship, faithfully and with full commitment, together with honoring the basic rights of all sides.

Mr Colombo was speaking at a reception held in his honor by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport. The Italian foreign minister, who arrived in a special Italian Air Force Plane, will spend 2 days here and will hold working talks with Mr Shamir, meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and be received by the president of Israel.

At the airport he said that in the international situation, which is disturbed by many tensions and struggles threatening peace and stability, the problems of the Middle East have become more important and sensitive. "In fact any movement, any step backward in this area increases the danger," the Italian foreign minister said. He praised Israel's courage and wisdom in withdrawing to the international border between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai and congratulated Israel for this.

"I hope the post-Sinai period will lead to advancing peace for us all. Any effort made by Israel in this direction will gain Italy's encouragement and support, while honoring the basic rights of all the sides," he said. "Israel and Italy have a common border, the Mediterranean, and our vital interests and aspirations and those of other countries meet at this point. I hope the Mediterranean will soon be an area of peace and cooperation between all the peoples living on its shores," the visiting minister said.

In his words of welcome, Mr Shamir said the visit represents an excellent opportunity to renew the dialogue between the two countries, and he praised the spirit of friendship and understanding that had prevailed in all of his previous meetings with Mr Colombo.

Mr Colombo has visited Israel in the past in his various roles, most recently as president of the European Parliament. The main deliberations will focus on regional problems, the situation in Lebanon and the interest shared by Israel and Italy in Spain's joining the EEC -- all of the countries export citrus fruit. Italy's role in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers will also be discussed.

BEGIN: WAR OF ATTRITION IN NORTH WILL NOT RECUR

TA121120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The northern communities leaders talked with the prime minister over the telephone after having conferred with the chief of staff last night. In that meeting they called on the government to guarantee quiet and safety in the region. Mr Begin refused to comply with their request for a meeting in Jerusalem, saying their position was understandable but a war of attrition like the one that took place last July would not recur.

BEGIN, REAGAN MAY DISCUSS AUTONOMY TALKS

TA121418 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 May 82 pp 1, 7

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] If the issue of resuming the autonomy talks is not resolved by June, the matter will be raised in a meeting between President Reagan and Prime Minister Begin, who will be going to the United States to address the UN General Assembly. It appears that during his talks in the United States in the latter half of May, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will hold talks on Begin's trip to the United States.

Details of Possible Meeting

TA121453 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 82 pp 1, 2

[Report from Washington by Gid'on Samet]

[Excerpt] Washington, 11 May (Special) -- The United States is holding contacts with Israel on the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Reagan in Washington and not in New York, when the two will go there for the special General Assembly session in mid-June.

At first a meeting in New York was discussed. However, this would have required the President to hold a series of meetings with leaders who will be attending the General Assembly session. Such a proliferation of meetings is not practical since the President will be going to New York for only a brief period to deliver his speech. He will then be returning to Washington.

The intention of administration officials is that the meeting will provide an opportunity for announcing an agreement, which they hope will be achieved in prior contacts, about the venue for the autonomy talks. Thus, a meeting between the foreign ministers will take place in Washington during June. The administration hopes the problem of Jerusalem will be resolved by means of a visit by Egyptians to the capital and by means of talks in Tel Aviv or by means of conducting technical talks in the capital and higher level talks elsewhere.

Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger today denied the claim that if there is no progress in the autonomy talks "other plans will be advanced." Reports from Israel attribute such a statement to special U.S. envoy Richard Fairbanks. In addition, Mr Eagleburger said explicit instructions were issued by the administration to prevent the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations and from any of its organizations.

EGYPTIANS SLOWING PACE OF AUTONOMY TALKS

TA121550 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 May 82 p 2

[Report by Yehoshu'a Bitzur]

[Excerpt] Mr Hayim Kubersky, the autonomy talks coordinator, told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday that the main points of contention between Israel and Egypt on the autonomy issue are the voting rights of east Jerusalem Arabs, the number of members of the administrative council and problems related to land and water in Judaea and Samaria. In his opinion, the Eygptians are deliberately slowing the pace of the talks, in spite of Israeli efforts to speed them up.

SHARON, WEINBERGER TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC MEMO

TA130533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will meet in about 2 weeks in Washington with his counterpart Caspar Weinberger and will discuss, among other things, the strategic memorandum of understanding. Our correspondent reports U.S. officials have hinted to Israeli figures during the last few days that it will soon be possible to renew the memorandum. Minister Sharon will also meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Further Details

TA130722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 May 82

[Report by Washington correspondent Shalom Qital -- recorded]

[Text] The United States is ready to activate in stages the strategic memorandum of understanding with Israel. Now the question is one of timing and means: When and how to go about it. U.S. officials, meanwhile, emphasize an elaborate declaration heralding the renewal of all the document's components is not involved, but rather discussions will begin with the visit here of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. The United States and Israel will then begin to gradually set in motion the strategic cooperation: joint consultations, annulment of the punitive measures regarding purchases from Israel's military industry and, subsequently, additional elements mentioned in the document signed about 6 months ago.

Sharon will meet in Washington with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Another subject that will be on the agenda is the balance of forces between Israel and the Arab countries. In talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir in Washington it again emerged that Israel and the United States are divided over the question of what the balance of forces is in the Middle East. The United States says the balance of forces has improved to Israel's advantage. Israel, however, maintains the arms acquisitions of the Arab countries, to which the United States has also contributed, have upset the balance and that accordingly the United States must promote the IDF's qualitative edge and refrain from supplying sophisticated weapons -- for which Jordan is currently waiting -- to the Arab countries.

How can there be differences about seemingly objective data such as statistics about the IDF's forces vis-a-vis those of the Arab countries? The fact is that such differences of opinion do exist and in the coming days, as the date for Sharon's visit approaches, efforts will be made in the Pentagon, in the Israeli Embassy and in the military attache's office to check and compare the data.

There is no doubt one of the reasons for the contradictory data is the fact that the United States, unlike Israel, believes only part of the weaponry flowing into the Arab states is liable to be used in a direct confrontation with Israel and a respectable portion of these arms cannot and will not be directed against Israel.

BEN-ME'IR: U.S. APPRECIATES IDF RESTRAINT

TA121901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 82

[Excerpt] A short time ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir ended talks with senior Pentagon officials after holding talks yesterday with State Department officials in Washington. One of the main issues broached during the talks was the U.S. concern about a flare-up in Lebanon. Our Washington correspondent Shalom Qital discussed the matter with Mr Ben-Me'ir.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Me'ir] I must note they told me they appreciated Israel's restraint and self-control. They are also aware of the fact that we have acted with utmost flexibility. It is true the United States expressed its concern about battles in Lebanon but, in contrast, I presented Israel's position, about our extraordinary restraint and self-control during that period as well as the fact that we are interested in maintaining the cease-fire. Nevertheless, the Israeli people are determined not to tolerate the shedding of Jewish blood in any way. I think the Americans realized my message reflected the undaunted position of the Israeli people.

[Qital] Did you gather that the United States is now preparing a new political move, perhaps another mission by Philip Habib who returns to Washington today for consultations?

[Answer] That could very well be, but they did not say that in so many words. They said they have been in contact with various governments which, in their opinion, may exert an influence on the region. Of course, they have a stake in this issue, however, I want to reiterate that they expressed their appreciation for our restraint. They heard from me things the prime minister told them on various occasions: We are not at all interested in provoking a flare-up in Lebanon but we will under no circumstances tolerate terrorist acts against Israeli targets.

[Question] Another topic is the memorandum of strategic understanding. I understand that yesterday you sent a message to the prime minister on this issue, following your talks at the State Department. Does the United States plan to renew the memorandum of strategic cooperation in the near future?

[Answer] I would not use the word message -- I do not like to use such bombastic and pompous words. I was told important things about the memorandum of understanding and, as I was asked to do, I conveyed them to the foreign minister and Mr Begin. I cannot say another word on this matter.

[Question] On the issue of arms sales to Jordan: A short time ago you held several meetings at the Pentagon. Will the United States sell aircraft and surface-to-air missiles to Jordan?

[Answer] This issue was certainly a main topic of the meeting I held yesterday with Assistant Secretary of State Eagleburger and in my talk today with Deputy Defense Secretary Carlucci. There is no doubt Israel is in for a struggle on this issue. I think we should prepare ourselves for this struggle; we have a good case. In any event, I explained the significance of harming Israel's superiority in the air, an event that would have an impact on our entire security strategy. I added the supply of sophisticated weapons to a country that is not participating in the peace process would erode the credibility of the United States. The Americans reiterated their commitment to Israel's qualitative superiority.

I also mentioned to them the President's commitment to also take into consideration the quantitative factor. Of course, the President's commitment is binding on all levels.

I would not suggest that we be complacent on this issue. We are faced with a problem and we are in for a struggle. There are those who are trying to put us at ease [about supplying arms to Jordan] by raising well-known rationalizations: the Syrian threat to Jordan and the possible supply of Soviet arms. I think they understood Israel takes a most serious view of this issue and that it will launch an uncompromising struggle over it. [end recording]

30 BI'R ZAYT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARRESTED

TA130749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] The military government in Judaea and Samaria has arrested 30 Bi'r Zayt students. They had resisted the arrest of two students at a students' residence in Ramallah. The military government decided to detain the two when subversive material was discovered in a raid on the residence. The students claim the material is only student bulletins, notebooks and textbooks.

COURT FINES 10 DRUZE WITHOUT IDENTITY CARDS

TA120818 Jerusalem POST in English 12 May 82 p 3

[Report by Yo'el Dar]

[Excerpts] Majdal Shams -- Ten Druze residents of the Golan were sentenced in absentia yesterday to fines of between 300 shekels to 500 shekels for failing to carry Israeli identity cards. The sentences were imposed by a civil court in the village of Mas'adah near here. A large group of Druze, including dignataries, demonstrated during the trial and was dispersed by police without violence.

Pro-Syrian sources denied yesterday that a group of Golan Druze intend to emigrate to Syria. "We do not want to leave our villages but we expect and pray for the end of the occupation," they said. The same elements denounced Likud MK Amal Nasyr ad-Din for suggesting yesterday, in an interview with the Jerusalem POST, that Golan Druze leaders opposed to Israel be expelled. They called Nasir ad-Din "an agent of the fascist-Zionist regime."

BRIEFS

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES EXPORTS -- For the first time in history, the Israeli aircraft industry has broken the $500 million mark in exports. The company's exports in the fiscal year ending 31 March 1982 totaled $520 million compared with $350 million the year before. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 82 p 6 TA]

IMMIGRATION IN APRIL -- Only 827 immigrants arrived last month, compared to 830 in April 1982. Some 3,738 immigrants arrived in the first quarter of this year -- a 3 percent increase over the same period last year. Aliyah from Argentina and England increased slightly last month, but Soviet immigration has fallen to almost nothing. Fully 83 percent of the Jews who leave the Soviet Union do not come to Israel. [Text] [Jerusalem POST in English 12 May 82 p 2 TA]

COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT WITH URUGUAY -- A communications cooperation agreement between Israel and Uruguay was signed on 10 May in the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem. It was signed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his counterpart, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr Valdes Otero. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 82 p 3 TA]

OMVS SUMMIT OPENS; TRAORE, HAYDALA SPEAK

AB122017 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 12 May 82

[Excerpt] The seventh summit conference of the Senegal River Development Organization [OMVS] opened this morning at the Hotel de l'Amitie. Presidents Abdou Diouf of Senegal, Mohamed Khoune Ould Haydala of Mauritania and Moussa Traore of Mali were accompanied by Mocktar Ould Aiba, OMVS high commissioner, and Minister Robert Tieble N'daw, outgoing chairman of the organization's council of ministers. Also present at the ceremony were members of the Malian People's Democratic Union Central Executive Bureau, the government, the diplomatic corps and representatives of fund donors.

The conference was marked by two speeches. Gen Moussa Traore once again expressed his pleasure at welcoming the distinguished guests from Senegal and Mauritania.

[Begin recording] Mssrs Presidents, Mssrs Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I am particularly happy to welcome you to Mali on behalf of our people, our party and our government and to reiterate our profound friendship, brotherhood and feelings of solidarity. I also wish to thank the honorable guests who have kindly accepted our invitation. We are so happy that the OMVS, with the laying yesterday of the cornerstone of the Manantali dam, has taken a particularly decisive step. Through that historic gesture, we have just completed an act of exemplary solidarity in response to the aspirations and the legitimate hopes of our peoples. The gigantic dam, an imposing symbol of our friendship and fraternity, is proof of our people's determination jointly to forge their destiny and will serve as an example to future generations in the pursuance of the great undertaking we have irreversibly begun together. As a matter of fact, the Manantali dam, the common heritage of the peoples of Mauritania, Senegal and Mali, is undoubtedly the prominent translation into fact of our firm willingness to work in harmony and consultations to ensure maximum integrated exploitation of our various resources. Since yesterday, ladies and gentlemen, a beautiful dream has been translated into reality. Nothing will ever stop our march toward the full implementation of the great project we have devised for this Senegal River Basin and thus toward progress, accelerated development and prosperity. It is gratifying to realize that within the organization, each state has given priority to the search for efficiency. Also, several factors require our solidarity and the efficiency of our common undertaking. These are the existence of important resources in the river basin, our obvious natural complementarity and the various sociocultural and human similarities among our peoples. However, the hard realities we all face should make us still more rigorous and vigilant in our solidarity. As a matter of fact, the current summit of our organization is being held at a time when the international economic situation is extremely bad, due in particular to worldwide inflation, the energy crisis and the deterioration of trade terms, which hit hard our young and fragile economies. In view of this, the implementation of the OMVS program is an absolute necessity for our states. The program is the materialization of our common determination to draw maximum benefit from nature.

As a matter of fact, regulating the flow of the river will make it possible to jointly exploit the resources in its basin to promote the simultaneous development of agropastoral, hydroelectric and industrial resources and waterway transport. As you can see, Mssrs Presidents, ladies and gentlemen, we are "condemned" to succeed in our great undertaking and there is no doubt that we will succeed particularly thanks to our determination and faith and thanks to the valuable assistance from some countries and international organizations.

Let's continue to work hard to safeguard and consolidate our organization and its prosperity. Once again, Mssrs Presidents, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Mali and long live the OMVS. I thank you. [end recording]

After President Moussa Traore, Mauritanian head of state Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, outgoing chairman of the OMVS, spoke:

[Begin recording] Mssrs Presidents, Mssrs Ministers, honorable guests, Mssrs Ambassadors, Mr High Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen: It is certainly not by luck that we have gathered today in Bamako which has witnessed so many major events aimed at the three peoples can be proud of our common achievement -- the OMVS -- looked upon in Africa and even in the whole Third World as the most beautiful example of a successful subregional integration based on realism, solidarity and dynamism. Based on the strong and long-standing relations of our Sahel and Sudan-Sahel peoples, our organization succeeded in shaping its present stand and its future prospects on objective facts. This could not have been achieved without the spirit of solidarity and belief in common destiny that our people share. Mssrs Presidents and dear brothers, your personal contributions were decisive in strengthening our organization.

After the first uncertain steps of yesterday, we now can say without exaggeration that our organization has made gigantic steps -- launching within 8 months the two greatest dam projects in West Africa. When I quickly look back at the results achieved during that period, I can state with pleasure that all bodies of our organization have mobilized themselves in a remarkable way, making it possible for the OMVS to achieve the highly positive results we all see now. Our conference sent delegations to various European and Arab capitals to seek additional financial resources. The council of ministers held as many extraordinary sessions as necessary to make the important decisions on our course of action. The consultative committee, an efficient framework for consultations between the OMVS and its financing partners, held six sessions during the last 29 months, which proves that our fund donors have mobilized behind us despite their other concerns. We thank them very much.

Now 15 financing partners -- Arab, Europeans, North Americans and Africans -- have decided to cooperate with us in our vast efforts to develop the Senegal River Basin and make it an integrated development zone common to our three countries. This is a good example of European-Arab-African cooperation. Out of a total cost estimated at 187 billion CFA francs, the contribution of Arab countries is 47 percent; Europe, Canada and United States; 42 percent; and African Development Bank, UNDP and the Islamic Bank; 11 percent.

Today, I have to turn over the chiarmanship to my brother and friend President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. In view of his personal qualities, his competence and his interest in serving the public, his attachment to African unity, his insight and wisdom, I am convinced that, under his chairmanship, our organization will become even stronger. In any case, he can count on our cooperation as in the past to safeguard and further strengthen the OMVS. This is the most prominent evidence of our solidarity.

Aware of our common responsibility before history, at a time when occasional differences brought forth by the greed of external forces are now threatening our continent, we want to make the OMVS a permanent, productive, reliable and firm core of African unity to which we are all deeply attached. Long live OMVS! Long live African unity! Long live Arab-African solidarity! Long live European-Arab-African cooperation! Long live world peace! [end recording]

MONITORING OF MULTINATIONALS URGED AT MEETING

AB101647 Lagos NAN in English 1400 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] Lagos, 10 May (NAN) -- The vice president, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, today in Lagos called for a more intensive monitoring of the activities of multinational corporations in Africa.

He made the call in Lagos while declaring open the 2nd assembly of the African accounting council nad 3rd colloquium on accounting systems in Africa.

Dr. Ekwueme said that the financial reports of most multinationals as presented to the government and public often did not conform to the "true and fair view" principles. He said that in view of the doubt created by these reports, there was need to prescribe certain disclosure standards for compliance by multinationals.

Dr. Ekwueme urged delegates to come up with urgent prescriptions which would check the possible plunder of the economies of African nations through presentation of manipulated and misleading accounts.

On the role of accounting in economic planning, Dr. Ekwueme noted that accounting information was important in plan implementation stressing that if African countries were to achieve accelerated trade among themselves there was need for harmonisation of accounting systems in the continent. He further stressed the need for full utilisation of available accounting techniques for purposes of achieving economy, and efficiency in public and private interprises in Africa.

Delegates from more than seven countries are attending the one week assembly whose theme is "Accounting in Africa, Past Present and Future". The countries are Senegal, Guinea, Ghana, Zaire and Gabon. Others include Algeria, Ethiopia and host country, Nigeria.

ALGERIA

GREEK PRIME MINISTER SUPPORTS PALESTINE CAUSE

LD130904 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Algiers, 13 May (APS) -- Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou received members of the diplomatic corps yesterday evening.

During the meeting, also attended by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic ambassador and PLO representative, political, economic and cultural relations between Arab countries and Greece were reviewed. He expressed his country's readiness to develop and these relations, affirming his government's support for the crucial Arab issues, primarily the just cause of the Palestinian people. He said his country supports the just struggle the Palestinian people have been waging for the retrieval of their legitimate rights and the struggle of the Saharan people for their right to self-determination. The discussions also touched on the international situation and the Mediterranean.

Papandreou, on an official visit to Algeria, returned to Algiers at noon yesterday after visiting Hassi Masoud. In a statement to APS, Papandreou expressed his great admiration for the achievements made by Algerian technicians and cadres in the areas he visited.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA ON KING'S U.S. VISIT; UPCOMING SUMMIT

LD121752 Rabat MAP in English 1530 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Rabat, 12 May (MAP) -- Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta has stressed that the visit which His Majesty King Hassan II will pay to the United States will have great importance for Arab-American relations particularly with regard to the Palestinian question, as well as for bilateral relations which in the Reagan era have witnessed positive developments especially with regard to the question of the Sahara and the supply of Morocco with weapons to defend its territorial integrity. In a statement to the Saudi AL-JAZIRAH correspondent in Rabat, Boucetta pointed out that the relations of military cooperation between Morocco and the United States are basically required by the circumstances of defending the country's territorial integrity.

As for the resumption of the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes, M'hamed Boucetta said that the Arab foreign ministers' meeting which will be held in September will fix the date for the second round of this conference. In conclusion Boucetta confirmed that the forthcoming African summit conference in Tripoli will not be held unless it is preceded by an extraordinary summit conference to discuss the serious divsions which the OAU is experiencing.

WILLINGNESS TO RESTORE TIES WITH EGYPT REPORTED

PM111527 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 May 82 p 1

[Muhammad Krishan report]

[Text] Tunis -- Informed sources in Tunis yesterday confirmed to 'UKAZ that Morocco is willing to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt and that the new Moroccan ambassador to Egypt will be Mr Bensounda, who was Moroccan ambassador to Lebanon in the 1960's and for a few months in 1973 and whose relations with diplomatic circles in the Middle East are excellent.

The same sources also confirmed to 'UKAZ that M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, will stop over in Cairo during his coming tour of a number of Arab states.

The sources spoke of Egypt's support for Morocco on the Sahara issue and of the possibility that Egypt might boycott the OAU summit conference scheduled to be held in Libya in August.

KING HASSAN SET TO VISIT LONDON 25-27 MAY

LD121400 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco will pay a short working visit to London 25-27 May at the invitation of the British prime minister.

During this visit, his majesty the king will conduct formal talks with British officials. He will be received by her majesty, the queen of England and by the British prime minister.

TRAVELERS REPORT STUDENT PROTESTS IN ALGERIA

LD121900 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Oujdah, 12 May (MAP) -- Travelers arriving from Algeria said large demonstrations recently took place in a number of Algerian towns in which hundreds of students protested recent education measures, including the withdrawal of grants to a number of students. In Sabra, demonstrators attacked security forces, injuring three. A policeman was seriously injured during a demonstration in Sidi Mejahed. Also, shop and car windows were smashed in Sidi Bel Abbes. In Oran, demonstrators set fire to a number of drugstores and cars. A curfew beginning at 2000 was imposed in Oran and Magnia.

Students were protesting government measures seeking to limit the number who pass baccalaureate examinations to only 5 percent of those taking them.

BRIEFS

PRC ENVOY'S FAREWELL -- Rabat, 11 May (MAP) -- Mr Maati Bouabid, Morocco premier, received Monday Mr Mi Yung, Chinese ambassador, who paid him a farewell visit on the occasion of the end of his mission in Morocco. The Chinese ambassador expressed thanks and gratitude for the assistance he was granted during his stay in Morocco by the Moroccan Government. He also recalled the visit of the Moroccan premier to China last February and said this visit helped consolidate cooperation and friendship ties existing between the two countries. The Moroccan premier affirmed the will of his government not to spare any effort to further consolidate Moroccan-Chinese relations. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 11 May 82 LD]

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS EGYPTIAN-ARAB RELATIONS

NC120933 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 May 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) -- Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has said restoring Egyptian-Arab relations is now easier than ever.

He said: Following the liberation of the Sinai, the Arab states realize that Egypt liberated its land without losses. It is easy to enter into a destructive war but it's more difficult to achieve peace and regain rights without war, without giving up a single inch of land and without giving up any Egyptian or Arab right.

In an interview with the weekly AKHIR SA'AH, he said Sudan calls for solidarity in the interest of all Arabs. He added: Without Egypt there would be only fragmentation and differences for peripheral reasons. He stressed Sudan's role in this framework will not stop but he said it is inappropriate to spotlight this activity while we are awaiting the results, which will appear sooner than expected. Mirghani Mubarak also stressed Israel alone will benefit from this fragmentation. He asked the extremist Arab states if their goal is to liberate and restore the land.

On integration between Egypt and Sudan in the foreign political field, he said: Coordination and consultation are the features of this integration. There is an identity in principles of the two countries. In our coordination, each side is aware of the views of the other and, as the interests are one and the same, we try as much as possible to agree in our foreign views.

He cited as an example that the Foreign Ministries in Cairo and Khartoum work in complete coordination and that our ambassadors abroad cooperate and submit joint reports.

Concluding his interview, the Sudanese foreign minister said his country's relations with the United States are extremely good and that the United States is giving various types of assistance needed by Sudan.

3 'FEEBLE-MINDED AGENTS' ATTEMPT SABOTAGE

EA130222 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] SUNA has learned that security authorities foiled a new sabotage attempt on 10 May when they seized a quantity of explosives and ammunition in addition to a Kalashnikov, which three feeble-minded agents attempted to bring into the country from a neighboring country.

The agency added that the sabotage attempt was aimed, in addition to sabotaging certain vital strategic and economic installations -- including public communications -- and stopping work in some development projects, at increasing the suffering and difficulties of the citizens and at creating an atmosphere of alarm and despondency with the aim of threatening national security and stability.

A responsible source told SUNA that the three accused are being interrogated. They are (Muhammad 'Abdallah Ahmad), (Ibrahim Muhammad Ibrahim) and (Sa'id Ahmad Zakariya). They were arrested as they were attempting to enter the country with the sabotage equipment. They will be brought to trial in accordance with the state security law.

In response to a question from SUNA, the source said the new attempt by Sudan's enemies to conspire against it with the aim of sabotaging installations and facilities and exposing the lives of citizens to the threat of death is a continuation of the criminal and abortive attempts planned by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his regime's gangsters against Sudan and the fraternal Arab and African states. Perhaps the bomb explosion at the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum and what was revealed at the trial of the accused in that case were indictments of the terrorist Libyan regime, even before the indictment of those found guilty by our fair justice. [as heard]

The source concluded that security authorities are watching attentively for any criminal attempts by the Al-Qadhdhafi regime against Sudan through its feeble-minded agents. Anyone wanting to play with fire will be taught the lesson he deserves.

LEADER EXPLAINS ANTI-AL-QADHDHAFI FRONT

GF091705 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 May 82 p 7

[Interview granted by Muhammad Yusuf al-Maghariaf, founder and official spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, to an AL-YAWM correspondent at his residence in Khartoum -- no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Is the front's policy lefitst, rightist, military or religious? What is the nature of the proposed national program?

[Answer] The front belongs to our Libyan people in the full sense of the word. This means our Libyan people are linked to our Arab world and Islamic nation, the African Continent and the world community in general. The front is Libyan and nothing else. The overwhelming majority of front members are Libyans who want to restore Libya's correct orientation as a member in the world community. The National Front for the Salvation of Libya sees that the national action of resisting Al-Qadhdhafi requires us to pass through two stages: the first is to try to overthrow the Al-Qadhdhafi regime and the second follows the overthrow.

For the first stage, the front proposes an integrated and comprehensive media, military, political and social program to organize and mobilize all national powers in Libya and abroad to contribute to the overthrow of Al-Qadhdhafi.

As for the second stage, the front proposes technical measures and arrangements for the transition period following Al-Qadhdhafi's downfall and which will result in returning the Libyan people's self-determination to define their constitution through their representatives and to make their choices and to manage their affairs.

In its political program, the front attempts to define the form of government to which it aspires and which we are trying to form and which is up to the Libyan people to decide. The front defines its features in a national, constitutional and democratic government based on our people's religion of Islam, their heritage, history and values. It also emphasizes the form of government must fulfill the following three goals and objectives:

First, to protect principal rights and liberties for all Libyan citizens and to try to implement values of right and justice in the society and to observe Libyan traditions.

Second, to employ available human and material potential in a wise way that can cope with growth, ensure prosperity and forbid exploitation, to benefit not only Libya's sons but their neighbors and brothers.

Third, to remove all traces in all forums of Al-Qadhdhafi's practices and to create balanced relations with all fraternal and friendly countries on the principle of mutual respect and cooperation.

[Question] Can we say that there is an organized program at this stage to overthrow Al-Qadhdhafi?

[Answer] The national front is present in various places all over the world, wherever there are Libyans convinced of the front's program and wherever there are local organizations. Furthermore, there is a central organization for the front which sprang from the front's constitutional statement. This statement was translated into a detailed plan of action on the media, political, military and social levels and in the organizational field. The front is not a loose, unorganized body nor is it based on a small number of people. Instead, it has a massive presence in Libya and abroad.

[Question] Does the Arab world give facilities to the front? Does it support the national front in realizing its goals?

[Answer] We want the Arab world to do one thing: to be aware of Al-Qadhdhafi's practices and to adopt a principled and correct stand based on private interest and within the stand of the Arab and Islamic nation, African Continent and the world community. Certainly, when Al-Qadhdhafi disappears, these countries will be more stable and secure and our Arab world will be more homogeneous and more ready to serve our fateful issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

We feel there is a change in the stand of many countries toward Al-Qadhdhafi and an awareness of his aggressive and conspiring nature. We also have this awareness and surely the stands of these countries toward Al-Qadhdhafi will reflect their concern for their interests and for our Arab nation's issues. Consequently, this will affect their relations with the front. We feel this through our review of the newspapers of these countries and through the statements of their leaders and kings.

[Question] Do you see any threat from the tripartite Libyan-Ethiopian-PDRY alliance in the Red Sea and Middle East region?

[Answer] I want to ask: Is there any benefit for the Libyan people from this alliance? I cannot answer this question. The least damage by this alliance is that about $1 billion is taken out of the Libyan people's coffers to aid Ethiopia in return for its entry in the alliance, which does no good for any of the Libyan people "except Al-Qadhdhafi himself." We believe this alliance is meant only to threaten and impair the stability of a number of countries that we consider fraternal, like Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

[Question] Does this damage also affect the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front?

[Answer] The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front tried to serve one cause, the Palestinian cause, but the front has forgotten its main goal and so far has done nothing, even though 3 or 4 years have elapsed since it was formed. Its main problem seems to be how to hold a meeting every 6 months. Despite all this, we want to emphasize we are with any real active and serious effort to serve the Palestinian cause. I do not want to be caught in the trap of convictions and I do not want others to conclude from my words that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front forms the main basis and is the only method to serve the Palestinian cause. On the contrary, I feel many countries outside the front have served the Palestinian cause more seriously and actively than the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Saudi Arabia's stand is an example. I do not think there is any country in the front that can say it has supported and served the Palestinian cause more than Saudi Arabia.

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH RWANDA -- A cultural, scientific and educational agreement, in force for 5 years starting from this year, was signed today between socialist Ethiopia and the Republic of Rwanda. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1100 GMT 8 May 82 EA]

KENYA

BIWOTT PROMISES USSR COOPERATION, NONALIGNMENT

EA122040 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Kenya as a nonaligned nation will cooperate with any peaceful country regardless of its political ideology. The minister for regional development, science and technology, Mr Nicholas Biwott, stated this in Nairobi today. Mr Biwott was receiving the Russian ambassador to Kenya, Mr Miroshnichenko, during a courtesy call on the minister.

Assuring the Russian diplomat of Kenya's cooperation with his country, Mr Biwott said that the recent delay in clearing Russian delegates to the habitat conference in Nairobi at the Nairobi International Airport was not intentional. He added that it was a technical problem which would not happen again.

Ambassador Miroshnichenko expressed appreciation for President Moi's speech on May Day. The ambassador said that his government was satisfied with the explanation on the delay in clearing its delegates to the habitat conference. He said that Kenya and Russia could cooperate in fields of agriculture and technical education.

UGANDA

VICE PRESIDENT 'PERTURBED' BY MILITIA ACTIONS

EA111324 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 11 May 82

[Excerpt] The vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, was accorded a rousing welcome when he arrived in Jie and Labwor Counties, Kotido District, during his 1-day tour of the district. The vice president, who was accompanied by the chief of staff, Brig David Oyite Ojok, conveyed to the people of the district fraternal greetings from President Milton Obote.

Addressing the same crowd at Kotido District headquarters, the vice president called upon the people to love one another so that peace, harmony and tranquillity can prevail in Karamoja and Uganda as a whole. He told them that the problem of security is a national (?effort which requires) collective responsibility from all peace-loving citizens of Uganda [words indistinct]. He appealed to elders, administrators and security personnel to work hand in hand and (?ensure) that the problem of security is tackled.

The vice president urged the elders in Kotido District to use their influence and advise the youth [words indistinct] cattle raiding and other acts of lawlessness.

Commenting on attacks launched by the peoples' militia from [names indistinct] Districts against the people of Kotido, the vice president was perturbed to note that the militia had turned their guns against the people they are supposed to protect. He revealed that measures are already underway to ensure that militia are placed under strict rules of the army. The vice president told his audience that the officers and men of the UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] are working hard to create a state whereby lives and property of the people are secure.

In Labwor County, which has suffered constant attacks at the hands of cattle raiders and militia, the vice president assured them that the government has not neglected the area and he told them that all their problems have already been brought to the attention of the government by the member of Parliament for the area. He stressed that the government is for the people [words indistinct] and develop all areas, adding that Uganda is only one country and will never be divided. He called upon everyone to work for Uganda [words indistinct] stability, harmony and love.

OPPOSITION LEADER ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF 'GENOCIDE'

AB121750 Paris AFP in French 1701 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Kampala, 12 May (AFP) -- Opposition leader Paul Semogerere today in Kampala strongly criticized the Ugandan Government's methods in matters of security and accused it of "genocide."

During a press conference held at the offices of the Democratic Party, Mr Semogerere said: "It is my duty to denounce what is happening in the country whatever the reaction of the government." He also condemned violence in any form, whether from Ugandan security forces or from antigovernment guerrillas, for he added, none of these parties will find solutions to the problems Uganda is presently facing.

The opposition leader added the figure of 511 dead among the people of the Mpigi District, given last week by an opposition member of Parliament, was too low. He added hundreds of persons were arbitrarily detained and some of them died in state prisons.

BRIEFS

SOVIET AID -- The Soviet Union is to build a mechanized farm at (Busitema), near the agricultural mechanization college. This was announced by the Soviet ambassador to Uganda, Mr Bukin, when he called on the minister of agriculture and forestry, Mr Mugwisa, at his office in Entebbe. Mr Bukin informed the minister the mechanization college, which was also built by the Soviet Union, would also be expanded to embrace new fields of training, like irrigation and engineering. The mechanized farm, when established, will produce enough food for students and for sale to the public. The farm will also (?serve) as a training center for farmers who wish to engage in large-scale farming. The minister thanked the Soviet Government for the assistance it has given to Uganda, especially in the field of agriculture. Mr Mugwisa urged the Soviet Union to popularize their tractors in Uganda. The tractors are reported to have performed well [words indistinct]. [Text] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 May 82 EA]

GAMBIA

NEW GOVERNMENT CABINET ANNOUNCED 13 MAY

AB130910 Paris AFP in French 0743 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Banjul, 13 May (AFP) -- The new Gambian Government is as follows:

President of the republic	Dawda Jawara
Vice president	Bakagy Darbo
Minister of foreign affairs	Lamin Kiti Jabang
Minister of justice	Fafa Mbye
Minister of territorial administration	Muhamadu Lamin Saho
Minister of interior	Abdulay Mbup
Minister of health, social welfare and labor	Muhamadu Cherno Jallow
Minister of finance and trade	Sherif Ceesay
Minister of agriculture	Saihou Sabally
Minister of water resources	Omer Jallow
Minister of economic planning and industrial development	Dr Muhamadu Mane
Minister of information and tourism	Landing Jallow Sonko
Minister of public works and communications	Lamine Bora Mboj
Minister of education, youth, sports and culture	Abdoulaye Njie

GHANA

STATE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION SET UP

AB110739 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has approved the establishment of a committee to be known as State Committee for Economic Cooperation. The committee is chaired by a member of the PNDC, Chris Atim, and his vice [chairman] is P.V. Obeng. The other members are Kwesi Amoako-Atta, Dr Joe Abbey, Nana Kobina Nketsiah, Kwesi Quartey, Jerry Obodai Sai, L.S.N. Akuetteh, Kojo Haizel, Dr Kwesi Botwe and Mahama Bawa, member secretary.

The committee will be responsible to the PNDC. Among other things, it will identify areas of development of economic cooperation between Ghana and other countries as well as make recommendations to the PNDC. The committee will also be concerned with the implementation of agreements for economic cooperation between Ghana and other countries. In this process, it will consult all state agencies which may be involved in such implementations and obtain periodic reports for the information of the PNDC. The committee will, through these regular consultations, identify what bottlenecks or constraints may occur in the implementation process. Persons on this committee who are already in the public services will be seconded for service on the committee. The committee will have its offices at the Castle, Osu.

ATIM: CUBANS 'TO REHABILITATE SUGAR FACTORIES'

AB100913 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] Sugar experts from Cuba are expected in Ghana before the end of this month to rehabilitate the country's two sugar factories at Asutuare and Komenda. This was announced by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Mr Chris Atim, at the inauguration of the workers defense committee of the Asutuare sugar factory.

Mr Chris Atim, who recently led an official delegation to Cuba, regretted that the Asutuare and the Komenda sugar factories should be allowed to degenerate into deplorable conditions. He attributed the situation to improper planning.

He disclosed that spare parts worth $30,000 ordered from Czechoslovakia since 1976 have up to date not been shipped to Ghana because the Bank of Ghana could not get over what he called "its bureaucratic tendencies." He said if the spare parts had been brought in, the government would not have placed order for sugar worth 31 million cedis this year. He did not, however, disclose which country or countries that will supply the sugar.

Mr Atim also deplored a situation in which imperialists collaborate with local agents to run down Ghana's economy. He asked the local defense committee to mobilize workers for increased productivity. In a resolution adopted after the inauguration, the workers said they have lost confidence in the entire management of the factory. They therefore called for a probe into the operating of the Ghana Sugar Estates Limited.

DEFENSE COMMITTEEES TOLD TO START FARM PROJECTS

AB080943 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 8 May 82

[Text] Workers defense committees which do not embark on farming projects will not be officially inaugurated. This is because the nation cannot be defended on empty stomachs. This was stated by Mr Chris Atim, member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], when he inaugurated the people's defense committee of the Accra-Tema metropolitan area of the Water and Sewage Corporation. He was suprised to know from his recent visit to Benin that the deposed Limann administration imported maize and palm oil from that country at a time when the items were scarce at home. The bill has not been settled. Mr Atim was not happy at the rate at which construction jobs which Ghanaians are capable of executing have been, as he put it, sublet to foreigners.

He called on the people to reverse this situation to help build a better Ghana. The PNDC member warned that the organizations which misuse government funds will be asked to account for whatever revenue they have spent. In a resolution, the defense committee suggested the review of the Valco [Volta Aluminum Company] agreement to improve the current water rates paid to the corporation. Although Valco is the biggest consumer of water in the country, it pays 30 pesewas per 1,000 gallons as against nearly 6 cedis paid by other commercial and industrial establishments for the same amount. The resolution also urged the PNDC to make it possible for all residents in the Accra-Tema area to enjoy good drinking water.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Northey, announced that the committee has a 20-acre maize and cassava farm. It will start work on a livestock farm immediately after the crop season is over.

PNDC MEMBER CITES GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

AB090907 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Mr Amartey Kwei, has said that the PNDC has an ideology but does not want to make it public for enemies of the revolution to capitalize on it. Mr Amartey Kwei, who was speaking at a rally for 23 unit PDC's [people's defense councils] at Labadi, said the priority areas of the government are the problems of hunger, transportation and shelter. He said as regards schools and clinics, we have to improve upon the conditions in the existing ones. The PNDC member warned (?fakes) who enroll as PDC members to perpetrate crime to desist from such acts. He advised PDC's to adhere to their guidelines and not hunt for mistakes of individuals in the society because such mistakes will by all means come to light.

The (Lar Manche Niyete Kwakruania) said the Lar traditional council is prepared to release land to the local PDC's for farming. He urged the youth to engage in fishing since the old fishermen are getting weak and could no longer produce effectively. The Labadi PDC's appealed to the PNDC to help them recover the lake beside the trade fair site for effective fish farming to feed the people.

In her closing remarks, the (?chaperon) for the function, Miss Zacharia, deputy secretary for local government, advised women to identify themselves with the 31 December women's movement which will be officially launched next week.

OFFICIAL SAYS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS 'TO GO PUBLIC'

AB101658 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 May 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The GHANAIAN TIMES features on its front page an announcement by the Volta regional secretary, Dr Yao Fiagbe, that all international schools are to go public. Addressing a durbar [traditional ceremony] of chiefs and people at Ho-Avor in the Volta region, Dr Fiagbe explained that this would enable as many children as possible to attend such schools instead of the privileged few, as had been the practice. He said the Provisional National Defense Council wanted to break with the past when all the good things were enjoyed by a few Ghanaians. The regional secretary stressed that until every Ghanaian has the basic necessities of life, no one would have more than he needs. By turning the schools public, it would offer equal opportunities for the children of farmers who had always been the underprivileged in the society.

ATIM DECLARES 'NO INTENTION TO BAN UNIONISM'

AB111427 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] Mr Chris Atim, has declared that the government has no intention to ban trade unionism in the country. However, there is the need to democratize the trade union movement so that workers can be seen to be running the affairs of the movement. Mr Atim was addressing workers in the Prestea goldmines. He observed that if the trade union congress and workers had been well-organized, the 31 December revolution would have been initiated by the workers and not the military. This is one of the reasons behind the formation of people's defense committees so that the military would not monopolize the course of the revolution. Mr Atim warned that the PNDC will not tolerate any move by trade union leaders to sabotage the revolution by inciting workers to go on strike. On the relationship between local unions and workers' defense committees, Mr Atim said the two bodies have a common goal. There should therefore be no confrontations between them.

A former employee of the Prestea goldmines, Alhassan Dagarti appealed to the PNDC to investigate the circumstances leading to the dismissal of 500 miners from the mines in 1977. He said he was one of the dismissed workers and their dismissal followed an attempt to expose the management for alleged stealing of gold.

HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON INDEFINITE LEAVE

AB110809 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has ordered nine officials of the Ministry of Health to go on indefinite leave without pay for alleged gross mismanagement of government funds and fraudulent deals.

They are Williams Hansen, principal supply officer; Robert Gyan Takyi, chief hospital secretary; and E. Osei Tutu, director of pharmaceutical services. Others are Samuel Botwe, deputy director of pharmaceutical services supplies; C.M. Kemevor, principal accountant and E.C. Richter, principal hospital secretary, national health planning unit. The rest are Simon Nettey, head of limb fitting center; Mr Akotiah, internal auditor and W.K. Animkon Osabutey, transport officer. They are to report to the press office, PNDC headquarters at Gonda Barracks not later than 0900 this morning.

A PNDC statement last night said the council is very much dissatisfied with the way civil servants and public officers dissipate government funds. When hospitals are short of drugs and equipment, the Ministry of Health could spend 98,000 cedis to undertake repair works on one car which is still not roadworthy. Again, the ministry lavishly spent 182,000 cedis on dinner sets while more than 500,000 cedis was spent in refurnishing already furnished bungalows within a month. The council pointed out that under the revolution, and specially having regard to the country's difficult economic conditions in general and the state of the hospitals' clinics and other state organizations in particular, irresponsibility of such magnitude constitutes a major social crime.

ATIM, DAKE LAUD CSSR IN ANNIVERSARY GREETING

AB072046 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 May 82

[Text] Mr Chris Atim, a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], has expressed the hope that Ghanaians will draw inspiration from the revolution views of the people of Czechoslovakia. This is contained in a fraternal greeting to the people of Czechoslovakia at an exhibition in Accra to mark the 37th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet troops from Hitler's regime. Mr Atim also hoped the occasion would inspire the people of both countries to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship in the struggle for peace, genuine independence, democracy and social progress. He appealed for peace and disarmament in Europe.

In another message, the PNDC secretary for works and housing, Prof Mawuse Dake, likened Ghana's revolution to that of Czechoslovakia and said in Ghana's new struggle to give power to the people, there is the need for unity of purpose and cohesion in action. He regretted that some Ghanaians are deceiving themselves that dollars and mercenaries can crush a revolution.

In his speech, the Czechoslovak ambassador in Accra, Mr Lundak, said with renewed relationship between the two countries, they would be able to create new conditions for justice and mutual cooperation for the benefit of their peoples. He gave an assurance that Czechoslovakia would give every assistance, particularly technical aid, to Ghanaians toward the rebuilding of the nation.

The exhibition, which is jointly organized by the Czechoslovak Embassy in Ghana and the Ghana-Czechoslovakia Friendship Association, was opened by the PNDC secretary for culture and tourism, Mr Asiedu Yirenkyi. It covers all aspects of science and technology, industry and social life of the people of Czechoslovakia.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN -- Ghana and Japan have signed an agreement in Accra, under which Japan will grant Ghana 600 million yen, about 8 million cedis, to support road construction and rehabilitation programs throughout the country. The grant will be used to purchase road equipment and machinery. Part of the grant will be used for payment of freight charges on the equipment and machinery. The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, and the Japanese ambassador in Ghana, Mr Masatada Higaki, signed the notes. The agreement will, however, be effective after its ratification by the PNDC. [Text] [Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 May 82 AB]

GUINEA-BISSAU

SOVIET UNION GRANTS LOANS IN TRADE AGREEMENTS

PA090452 Paris AFP in English 0429 GMT 9 May 82

[Text] Bissau, 8 May (AFP) -- The Soviet Union will lend Guinea-Bissau a total of 6.7 million rubles (about 5.3 million dollars) under trade agreements signed here between Guinean Finance Minister Carlos Correia and a Soviet Commerce Ministry representative, it was learned today.

Under one agreement, the Soviet Union will lend Guinea-Bissau 3.4 million rubles (about 2.6 million dollars) for the purpose of balancing its payments, to be amortized at 5 per cent interest over an 8-year period beginning in 1986.

Under the second agreement, 3.5 million rubles (about 2.7 million dollars) are to be used for the acquisition of merchandise, fuel, construction materials and foodstuffs. This loan is reimbursable over 5 years also at 5 per cent as of next year.

NIGER

STUDENTS STRIKE; KOUNTCHE ISSUES WARNING

AB120715 Paris AFP in English 0359 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Niamey, 12 May (AFP) -- University and high school students here in the Niger capital extended for a further week a strike they started on April 26, student sources said Tuesday. They reported that high school pupils in Zinder, Niger's second city 900 km (560 miles) to the east, and in the other main upcountry towns of Tahoua, Maradi and Diffa, were still on a strike of indefinite duration which had been launched even earlier.

Spokesmen for the Niger Pupils Union (USN), an independent organization unrecognised by the ruling military authorities, said the strike movement was in protest against lack of teachers, insufficient places in boarding schools and school dining-rooms, and delays in some cases in the payment of scholarships. The sources said the students were also contesting recommendations presented to the government by a conference in the last week of March which suggested easing the state's share of education expenses by gradually doing away with boarding facilities in ordinary schools and by getting families and local groups to pay part of the cost of schooling and training. [passage indistinct] But a variety of witnesses have reported that police have arrested an unspecified number of university and high school students, with the latter, who are minors, being released after questioning. Reliable sources said the head of pupils association at Issa Korombe boys school here had been "deported", being forcibly moved to Tahoua 40 kms (272 miles) away to continue his schooling. He was additionally no longer allowed to be a boarder, the sources said.

Leaflets severely critical of the military regime were circulating here Tuesday clandestinely, signed by a body calling itself the Steering Committee of the USN, and by its university section.

Head of state Colonel Seyni Kountche said at the weekend at a press conference after a week's visit to the central Maradi region that the present dispute was "inopportune", coming a few weeks before exams. Contention was acceptable if it resulted in improvements for the community in general, but if it went beyond dialogue and turned into "confrontation and provocation", the government would be obliged to take measures to halt the agitation, Colonel Kountche warned.

NIGERIA

SAUDI ECONOMIC MISSION ARRIVES ON 1-DAY VISIT

AB121628 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] A 12-man Saudi Arabian delegation led by Prince Muhammad al-Faysal Al Sa'ud arrived in the federal capital today on a 1-day official visit to the country. The team, which is on an economic mission, was met on arrival at Murtala Mohamed Airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Alhaji Mohamed Kirpi, and other top government officials.

A spokesman for the team said they were in the country to confer with the Federal Government over the establishment of an Islamic bank and other related issues. The bank, he explained, when established, would not only project the religious principles of Islam but enhance the development of Islamic economic activities based on the Sharia law. The team is expected to pay a courtesy call on President Shehu Shagari before leaving for Saudi Arabia.

Shagari, Crown Prince Meet

AB122149 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The Saudi crown prince, Muhammad al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, today paid a courtesy call on President Shehu Shagari. Crown Prince al-Faysal arrived in Lagos today at the head of a 12-man economic mission. His discussions with the president were on the strengthening of bilateral relations between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi delegation, which is leaving Lagos tonight for Niamey, was in the country to discuss with the Federal Government the establishment of an Islamic Bank and an insurance business in Nigeria. Further talks on the issue have been scheduled for next month.

GNPP WITHDRAWS FROM PROGRESSIVE PARTY ALLIANCE

AB070834 Lagos NAN in English 0805 GMT 7 May 82

[Text] Lagos, 6 May (NAN) -- The leader of the GNPP [Great Nigeria People's Party], Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim, said in Lagos today that his party was no more in the Progressive Party Alliance (PPA) or the Progressive People's Party [PPP].

Alhaji Waziri, who was speaking to newsmen, said that he had realized long ago that the Progressive Alliance would not work. "After working for two years, I have reversed my stand because the hierarchy of the GNPP, NPP [Nigerian People's Party], UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria] and the Imoudu faction of the PRP [People's Redemption Party] are incompatible," he said.

The GNPP leader said that when he discovered during the Maiduguri conference that the party could not work with the other parties in the alliance, he instructed Governor Mohammed Goni of Borno to stop attending the 12 governors' meeting.

He said that he agreed with the statement credited to the secretary general of the NPP, Dr Alex Form, that the PPA would not work. "I am against the PPA or PPP or anything you call it," Alhaji Waziri said. He however stated that the GNPP would be friendly to all the four other political parties. "The party will cooperate, in any practical [words indistinct] in the overall national interest."

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS SENDS MESSAGE TO NICARAGUAN LEADER

AB111252 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] The chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola has sent a message to the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction coordinator, Cdr Daniel Ortega. The message expressed the solidarity of the Angolan people, the party's Central Committee and the government with the Nicaraguan revolution at this hour when it is the target of criminal action organized by the U.S. administration in an attempt to obstruct the victorious march of national reconstruction of that Central American country. We are certain that the conquest of the Nicaraguan people will always be intransigently defended by the Sandinista [words indistinct] realizing the legitimate aspirations of your heroic and working people who, faced with the attempt of military intervention, intimidation and blackmail of American imperialism, will know how to respond appropriately and efficiently so that they can consolidate and deepen the Nicaraguan people's revolution, underlines the message of Jose Eduardo dos Santos to the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta for National Reconstruction.

UNION LEADERS MEET WITH GDR DELEGATION

AB112129 Luanda ANGOP in French 1830 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 11 May (ANGOP) -- A delegation of the Transport and Communications Workers Union of the GDR, led by its vice president, Fritz Knofer, recently held talks in Luanda with a delegation of the national union of Angolan workers from the same sector, led by its first national secretary, Simoes Pena.

According to a release from the Angolan Trade Union Organization, talks between the two parties covered exchanges of experiences, strengthening cooperation and tightening bonds of friendship between the two transport and communications workers unions.

During its stay in Angola, the GDR trade union delegation visited the Luanda commercial harbor and National Public Transport Enterprise bus terminal where they saw progress in work and organization and how the various local trade unions worked. It should be noted this delegation, which came to Angola at the invitation of the Angolan Trade Union Organization as part of the May Day activities, has since returned home.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO COMMUNIQUE REPORTS SOUTH AFRICAN LOSSES

AB121509 Luanda ANGOP in French 1428 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 12 May (ANGOP) -- A war communique published today in Luanda by the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, says 18 South African soldiers have been killed (including seven last April) inside Namibia. Three vehicles belonging to Pretoria's invading troops were seriously damaged.

In fact, within the framework of the offensive launched by the Namibian patriots with the massive support of the people, 11 Boer soldiers were killed Tuesday during an attack against a military post situated not far from Oshandi in the Ondangua region in northern Namibia.

According to the war communique of the Namibian people's revolutionary vanguard, seven racist soldiers were killed on 23 April in the Oshikango and Ondangua regions. The SWAPO also said several South African vehicles were destroyed on the road linking Oshikango and Ondangua.

SOUTH AFRICA

CONSTITUTIONAL REPORT PROPOSES CHANGES

LD121546 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Far-reaching changes in the South African systems of local and provincial administration in terms of which full civil and political rights are accorded to whites, Coloreds, Indian and Chinese are recommended in the first constitutional report of committees of the South African President's Council. The joint report of the committee for economic affairs and the constitutional committee on a new dispensation for local and regional government has been tabled in the council in Cape Town by the deputy chairman of the President's Council, Dr Schalk van der Merwe.

It is proposed in the report that the importance of local government should be increased, that a Ministry of Local Government should be instituted at the level of central government, that South Africa should be divided into eight provinces and that the legislative powers of provincial administrations should be taken away. It is stated as a basic principle that the greatest possible autonomy and authority should be accorded to the homogenous local authorities of the different groups in South Africa so that they can have control and decisive powers over their own culturally sensitive areas.

Although the ethnic character of authorities and living patterns must be recognized, the process of reform must not be based on forced segration or integration. Because of the complex and inextricible involvement of the South African black people in the local and regional economy of the country, it is recommended that they should get fully fledged and autonomous local authorities in their own areas and that they should have a say in metropolitan or regional authorities that will be responsible for providing essential services.

The joint committee regards the institution of metropolitan and regional authorities in South Africa as being of the utmost importance. By this means, additional nongovernment management bodies will be created which will make coordination and planning easier and help to keep the costs of sevices down. The different local authorities of groups in a specific area will nominate representatives in such metropolitan or regional authorities.

Two models of provincial administration are suggested for South Africa. In both models, power is decentralized to eight provinces but the councils do not have legislative powers.

In terms of the one model, the system of elected provincial government must gradually be done away with and replaced by a dispensation in which the various executive committees and administrators are appointed by the central government to exercise delegated authority in matters such as health and education. Colored and Asian members will also be able to serve in the executive committees. Satutory advisory councils will be appointed.

In the other model, provision is made for the retention of the existing system of provincial administration, with the inclusion of Colored and Asian people on the basis of independent voters' rolls. The executive committees will be elected and the administrators will be appointed by the government.

The joint committee found that the financial position of South African local authorities had reached a crisis. Comprehensive proposals for a more equitable and extensive distribution of financial resources are put forward by the committee. It is recommended in the report that an immediate start should be made with an intensive training program and a recruitment campaign so that provision can be made for the greater need for capable and leading personnel in the extended system of local management.

It is regarded as most important that the process for reform should be accompanied by strong government, that order and stability should be maintained and that there should be real and active efforts to improve relations between South Africa's ethnic groups.

The joint committee came to the conclusion that, regardless of political consideration, a thorough revision of South African local government was essential and that reform was desirable. The unsatisfactory status of local management bodies for the Coloreds and Indians was a persistent source of complaint. The committee's basic view was that a democratic dispensation had to be designed which would make provision for full civil and political rights for the population groups involved without discriminating against any group. It says an attempt has been made to recommend a system that maintains a balance between the interests and expectations of whites and the equally justified interests and expectations of the other communities.

The committee says there are certain realities that must be taken into account. These include the heterogeneous population of South Africa, that group domination must be eliminated, that cooperation depends on consensus, that strong government is required and that the new constitutional dispensation should have the capacity for further adaptation and extension.

Botha Urges Study of Proposals

LD122158 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has given a summary of the government's approach to the proposals. He has also called on the leaders of political parties and population groups not to adopt a standpoint on the recommendations until they have been studied thoroughly. Mr Botha says once the necessary deliberations and negotiations have been completed the government will formulate final proposals. These will be submitted to congresses of the ruling party and, if necessary, to the public by means of referendums. Mr Botha has stressed that the South African Parliament is the only organization that has constitutional power to establish a new dispensation in the country. One of the guidelines the government will be adopting when considering the proposals is that constitutional adaptations should have a destabilizing effect on the South African community. [sentence as heard] They must therefore be introduced by means of an evolutionary process.

SWAZILAND

2 SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM

MB121140 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 12 May 82 pp 1, 16

[By James Dlamini]

[Excerpt] Two white South African soldiers who have deserted from the army are seeking political asylum in Swaziland.

This was confirmed by the permanent secretary in the deputy prime minister's office, Mr A.R. Shabangu, yesterday. He withheld their names to avoid reprisals against them from the South African police. "Obviously the South African Government is looking for them and it would be wrong for me to release their names for publicity," Mr Shabangu said.

Mr Shabangu said South African Army deserters are eligible for refugee status. "It all depends on their circumstances. If they are genuine, then they qualify," he said.

The asylum committee is to make a report to the relevant authorities with recommendations on whether or not they should be granted refugee status. Their movement is restricted in terms of the refugee control act.

The deputy prime minister, Senator Ben Nsibandze, said the case had not come before him yet. Asked if they would be accepted, he said: "There are rigid checks conducted by the asylum committee. After going through this tight programme, it will be decided if they qualify."

ZAMBIA

GDR FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS KAUNDA-BOTHA TALKS

CA121000 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 11 May 82

[Text] The visiting German Democratic Republic foreign minister, Mr Oskar Fischer, has said the recent talks held between President Kaunda and South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha was a sign of bravery by African leaders in their search for peace.

Addressing newsmen at the GDR Embassy, Mr Fischer said the struggle in Africa should therefore not be weakened but it should be continued to save the lives of people both in Namibia and South Africa. Mr Fischer also called on progressive forces to unite and seek peaceful solutions to many problems confronting the world today. He expressed concern over the invasion of the Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. He called on the superpowers involved in the battle to withdraw their troops immediately because it could lead to more bloodshed.

The minister also briefed the newsmen on the situation in Poland and said it was improving both politically and economically.

Mr Fischer who is on a 3-day visit to Zambia has hailed the good relationship between his country and Zambia. Yesterday he met the member of the Central Committee Mr Reuben Kamanga and described their talks as satisfactory.

ZIMBABWE

AIR AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR'S FISCHER

CA101128 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 May 82

[Text] Zimbabwe and the German Democratic Republic, GDR, have signed an air transport agreement. The agreement was signed yesterday by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, and his German counterpart, Comrade Fischer. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Comrade Mangwende said the agreement signifies a commitment by the two countries to enter into more meaningful economic agreements. Comrade Mangwende said a further agreement will be signed before the GDR foreign minister leaves Zimbabwe. At the same ceremony, Comrade Fischer said the agreement is a further example of cooperation between the GDR and Zimbabwe. Yesterday Comrade Fischer held (?extensive) meetings with the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, and the minister of finance, economic planning and development, Comrade Chidzero.